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RITUAL

OF THE EASTERN STAR

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THE FIVE HEROINES OF THE ORDER.

RITUAL

OF THE

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR.

A BOOK OF INSTRUCTION

FOR THE

ORGANIZATION, GOVERNMENT AND CEREMONIES

OF

CHAPTERS

OF THE ORDER

IN EVERY DEPARTMENT.

BY

ROBERT MACOY,

PAST GRAND PATRON GRAND CHAPTER OF NEW YORK.

ILLUSTRATED.

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PREFACE.

HAVING been engaged for a number of years in disseminating the beautiful Order of the Eastern Star, and believing that the system is fast becoming deeply rooted in the affections of the Masonic Craft and their female relatives, and the belief prevails that the time is not far distant when this system of the Adoptive Rite will receive Masonic official recognition, and meet with general acceptance, even where it is now neglected or proscribed. These, and other good reasons, have been the inducements for producing this volume upon the plan now offered.

The want of some systematic organization has been the leading cause of retarding its general usefulness for many years, and it may be set down as an axiom, that no degree, however remotely connected with any institution, can take a high place among us, unless it possess a well-conceived and philosophic basis of ceremonial, symbolism, and constitutional regulation. Without these it is subject to constant changes from a multiplicity of minds, which tend to destroy its universality, and give its opponents just grounds for their cavilings. The history of all the Masonic degrees (above the first three) proves this. The degrees

of the Chapter, Council, and Commandery were never prized until, in the last generation, they were thus wrought out, framed together, and perfectly systematized. Their opponents have now become their warmest advocates, and they stand upon an immutable foundation.

Believing that there are equal grounds of stability in the system of the Order of the Eastern Star, the present Ritual is presented. In this pleasant labor I have had the counsel of the highest intellects of the Adoptive System, to whom I cheerfully acknowledge my obligations and offer my hearty thanks. Brother Robert Morris, whose labors in connection with this subject are well known, has given his unqualified approbation of the present plan. I have every reason to believe that, in the completion of this work, nothing has been left undone that will conduce to the permanency, prosperity, and extended usefulness of the Order of the Eastern Star.

ROBERT MACOY.

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ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR,

UNDER THE SYSTEM OF THE ADOPTIVE RITE.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

ORGANIZATIONS bearing an imperfect resemblance to Freemasonry in its forms and ceremonies, for the admission of females as members, were first established in France, about the year 1730. To the organizations thus established for the initiation of females, the French gave the name of "Adoptive Masonry," or, *Maçonnerie d' Adoption*, and the Lodges are called *Loges d' Adoption*, or "Adoptive Lodges," because every Lodge of females was obliged to be adopted by, and under the guardianship of, some regular Masonic Lodge.

By the term *Adoptive Masonry* (or *Rite*) is implied that system of forms, ceremonies, and explanatory lectures which is communicated to certain classes of ladies, who, from their relationship by blood or marriage to Master Masons in good standing, are entitled to the respect and attention of the entire Fraternity.

The ladies are said to have been *adopted* into the Masonic communion, because the system of forms, ceremonies and lectures above referred to enabled them to express their wishes and give satisfactory evidence of their claims, in a manner that no stranger to the Masonic family could.

The Masonry of Adoption did not at once, and in its beginning, assume that peculiarly imitative form of Freemasonry which it subsequently presented, nor was it recognized as having any connection with the Masonic Order, until more than thirty years after its first introduction. Its progress there, like its efforts here, was slow and gradual.

One of the earliest of these societies was established in 1743, at Paris, under the title of the "*Ordre des Felicitaires,*" which we may translate the "Order of Perfect Happiness." This society assumed a nautical character in its emblems and its vocabulary. The sisters made, symbolically, a voyage to the island of Felicity, in ships navigated by the brethren.

It was divided into the four degrees of Cabin-Boy, Captain, Commodore, and Vice-Admiral, and the Grand Master, or presiding officer, was called the Admiral. What little information we have been enabled to obtain from a very brief notice of its ritual, leads us to believe that it was not of a character to merit countenance. It did not long retain its existence; for, two years after its formation, it gave place to the "Knights and Ladies of the Anchor," which was a refinement of the original society and preserved its formula of initiation, and the best of its ceremonies.

In 1747, a new society was instituted, called "*L' Ordre des Fendeurs;*" or, the Order of Wood-cutters. It bor-

rowed its principal ceremonies from the society of the *Carbonari*, or Coal-burners, which had been previously established in Italy. The place of meeting of the Wood-cutters was called the "Wood-yard," and was supposed to represent a forest; the presiding officer was called "Father Master," and the male and female members were styled "Cousins." This society became at once exceedingly popular, and the most distinguished ladies and gentlemen of France united themselves to it, and membership was considered an honor which no rank, however exalted, need disdain. It was, consequently, the cause of the institution of many similar androgynous societies, such as the Order of the Hatchet, of Fidelity, *La Belle et Bonne*, etc.

In consequence of the increasing popularity of the numerous secret associations, which, in their external characters and mysterious rites attempted an imitation of Freemasonry, differing, however, from that institution, of which they were, perhaps, the rivals for public favor by the admission of female members, the Grand Orient of France, in 1774, established a new rite, called the "Rite of Adoption," which was placed under the control of the Grand Orient. Rules and regulations were provided for the government of these Lodges of Adoption, one of which was that no men should be permitted to attend them except regular Freemasons, and that each Lodge should be placed under the charge, and held under the sanction and warrant, of some regularly-constituted Masonic Lodge, whose Master, or, in his absence, his Deputy, should be the presiding officer, assisted by a female President or Mistress. Under these regulations a Lodge of Adoption was opened at Paris, in May, 1775, under the patronage of the *Lodge of St. Antoine*, in

which the Duchess of Bourbon presided and was installed as Grand Mistress of the Adoptive Rite. The Rite of Adoption consists of four degrees, whose names in French and English are as follows: 1. *Apprentie*, or Female Apprentice; 2. *Compagnonne*, or Craftswoman; 3. *Maîtresse*, or Mistress; 4. *Parfaite Maîtresse*, or Perfect Mistress. The doctrines inculcated in this Order were intended to remind the members of their especial duties in this world, and the words addressed by the Grand Mistress to the aspirant revealed the nature of the trials and of the instruction which awaited her in the successive degrees into which she sought to be initiated. The aspirant was warned against entering the society through a mere feeling of curiosity, and was informed that the Order was destined to render human society as perfect as possible. She was taught to love justice and charity, to be free from prejudice and bigotry, to hate artifice and falsehood, and by her virtue to gain the universal esteem and friendship of her Brothers and Sisters. The candidate took the following oath: "In the presence of the Grand Architect of the Universe I swear faithfully to keep the secrets intrusted to me; if I betray them may I be forever dishonored and despised; and in order that I may have strength to keep my promise, may a spark of divine light illumine and protect my heart, and lead me in the paths of virtue." This promise was sealed with three kisses which the Grand Mistress gave her; the kiss of peace on the forehead, the kiss of faith on the right cheek, and the kiss of friendship on the left cheek.

Much taste and elegance are displayed in the decorations of the Lodge-rooms of the Adoptive Rite. The apartments are separated by curtains, with different

divisions, and contain ornaments and decorations which, of course, vary in the different degrees. The Masonic idea that the Lodge is a symbol of the world is here retained, and the four sides of the hall are said to represent the four Continents—Europe, Africa, America, and Asia. The hall is also decorated with statues, representing Wisdom, Prudence, Strength, Temperance, Honor, Charity, Justice, and Truth.

Attached to the celebrated *Lodge of the Nine Sisters,* which had so many distinguished men of letters among its members, was a Lodge of Adoption, bearing the same name, which, in 1778, held a meeting at the residence of Madame Helvetius in honor of Benjamin Franklin, then our ambassador at the French court.

The Lodges of Adoption flourished greatly in France after their recognition by the Grand Orient. During the Reign of Terror of the French Revolution, the Lodge of Adoption almost entirely disappeared. But on the restoration of a regular government, they again flourished with renewed vigor, and the Empress Josephine frequently presided at the meetings of the Lodges. They continued to prosper under the imperial dynasty, and recovered their great popularity, and are still in existence in France.

Many systems of the Adoptive Rite have, from time to time, been introduced into the United States, with varied success, but none of which seemed to possess the elements of permanency, until the introduction of the ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR, which was established in this country during the year 1855. The success of this Order, as now conducted, corresponds in its efficiency and usefulness with the extent and popularity of similar institutions.

OBJECTS OF THE RITE.

For a more extended diffusion of the principles of morality and friendship by established and significant emblems ; for inciting the influence of females toward the purposes of the Masonic institution ; for increasing social enjoyment by the aid of the Masonic tie ; for ameliorating the condition of the destitute widow and the helpless orphan ; and for affording increased facilities in relieving distressed female travelers, the American Adoptive Rite has been framed.

The wives, mothers, widows, sisters, and daughters of Masons cannot, from the immutable laws of the Order, be permitted to share in the grand mysteries of Freemasonry ; but there is no reason why there should not be a society for them, which may not merely enable them to make themselves known to Masons, and so to obtain assistance and protection, but by means of which, acting in concert through the tie of association and mutual obligation, they may co-operate in the great labors of Masonry, by assisting in, and in some respects directing the charities, and toiling in the cause of human progress.

To secure successful results to a purpose so laudable, it is necessary that its votaries should apply its rules in a rigid sense ; carefully maintain its landmarks ; affiliate into its bonds only those who are well calculated by temperament and principle to understand and appreciate its beauties, and work out patiently and untiringly its grand designs.

The theory of the Order of the Eastern Star is founded upon the Holy Writings. Five prominent female characters, illustrating as many moral virtues, have been selected and adopted. The selections are :

1. JEPHTHAH'S DAUGHTER, illustrating *respect to the binding force of a vow;*

2. RUTH, illustrating *devotion to religious principles;*

3. ESTHER, illustrating *fidelity to kindred and friends;*

4. MARTHA, illustrating *undeviating faith in the hour of trial;*

5. ELECTA, illustrating *patience and submission under wrongs.*

These virtues have nowhere in history more brilliant exemplars than in the five characters illustrated in the lectures of the Order of the Eastern Star.

The honorable and exalted purposes had in view in its dissemination, can have no opposition worthy the name. Its effects in winning to the advocacy of charity the virtuous, intelligent, and influential female members of our families are truly encouraging, and stimulate its friends to persevere in a general promulgation of the system.

According to the tenets of the Order of the Eastern Star, the Adoptive Rite stands a bright monument to female secrecy and fidelity, and proves how wrong all those are who fancy a woman is not to be trusted. There is not in the whole of the ceremonies of this Rite a single point with which the most ascetic moralist could find fault. On the contrary, all is pure, all is beautiful; it is among the brightest jewels which spangle the records of this elegant system.

As the adoptive privileges of the lady entirely depend upon the good standing and affiliation of the Brother through whom she is introduced, this system will be a strong inducement, it is believed, to keep a Brother, otherwise inclined to err, within the bounds of morality.

DIRECTIONS, ETC.

Those desiring to take part in the diffusion of this Rite will associate, to a number not less than seven, possessing harmony of sentiment and purpose, having received, in a legal manner, all the degrees of the Order, and petition the Supreme * Grand Chapter for a charter, in the following form :

FORM OF PETITION.

To the Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, of the State of ..... :

The undersigned, the wives, mothers, widows, sisters, and daughters (*as the case may be*) of Master Masons in good standing, and in possession of the five degrees of the Order of the Eastern Star, as appears by the certificate annexed, being desirous of associating ourselves into a Subordinate Chapter, for the purposes of mutual aid, sympathy, and relief, as contemplated in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Chapter, and for the greater extension of the Adoptive Rite, do hereby solicit a Charter under the title of ..... Chapter, No. ... to be holden at ..... County of ..... State of ....

We have selected and do recommend Sister ..... to be Worthy Matron, and Sister ..... to be Associate Matron, and would recommend the appointment of Brother.....to be the Worthy Patron of said Chapter.

If the prayer of this petition shall be granted, we solemnly pledge ourselves to strictly conform to the constitutional requirements of the Grand Chapter in all things appertaining to the Adoptive Rite, and the edicts

* When a Grand Chapter shall have been established in a State the word "Supreme" should be omitted.

of the Grand Patron, when said edicts are not inconsistent with the Landmarks of the Rite; and if the Chapter herein solicited fail to become organized, or at any time hereafter be dissolved, we pledge our honor, each for herself and her successors, that the charter, books of record and account, and rituals shall be immediately returned to your Grand Secretary.

In token whereof, we have severally affixed our hands this .... day of ...., A.D. 18...

(*Signed by all the petitioners.*)

INDORSEMENT.

This petition must be indorsed by the Deputy Grand Patron of the State, or by the Master of the Lodge nearest the place where the Chapter is to be located, and should be in this or similar form:

This is to certify that the names attached to the within petition are in their own proper handwriting, and are known or avouched to me as the (*naming their relationship to members of the Masonic Order*), all of whom have received the degrees of the Order of the Eastern Star.

I therefore fraternally recommend granting the prayer of the petitioners.

(Signed,) .....

Master of .... Lodge, No. .., at ....

TITLE OF THE BODY.

The body when assembled is styled a "Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star," which shall be composed of males and females, and must consist of not less than seven ladies, being the wives, mothers, widows, sisters, or daughters of Master Masons in good standing.

OFFICERS OF A CHAPTER.

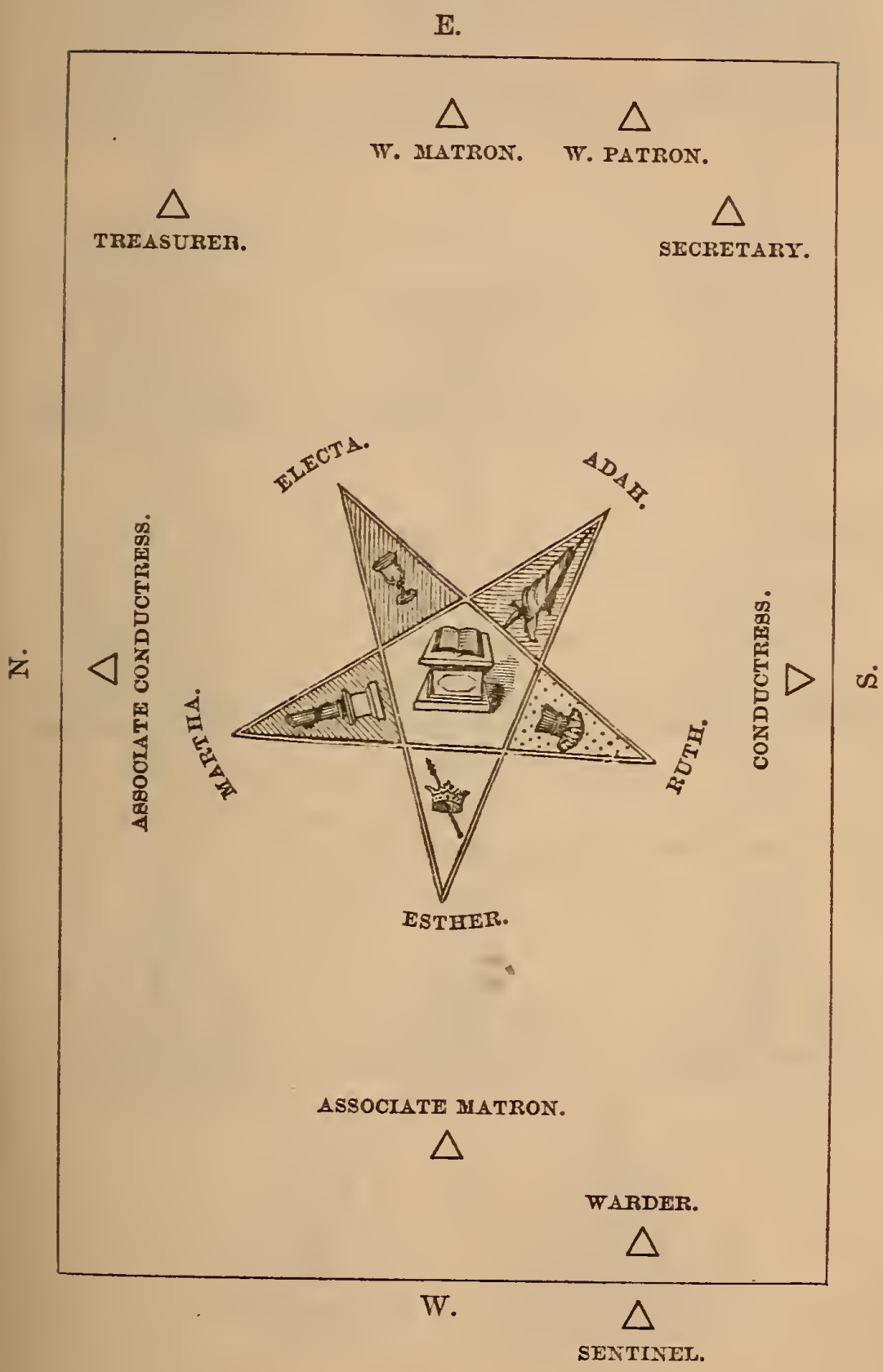
The officers of a Chapter shall consist of and be styled,

1. WORTHY MATRON;
2. ASSOCIATE MATRON;
3. TREASURER;
4. SECRETARY;
5. CONDUCTRESS;
6. ASSOCIATE CONDUCTRESS;
7. WARDER;
8. SENTINEL;
9. ADAH;
10. RUTH;
11. ESTHER;
12. MARTHA;
13. ELECTA;
14. WORTHY PATRON, who must be a Master Mason and a contributing member of a Lodge, whose duty is to advise with the Officers of the Chapter, and preside when the degrees are being conferred; preside at the election of officers, and such other times as may be required by the Worthy Matron.

STATIONS OF OFFICERS.

Their stations are as follows: 1. Worthy Matron, in the East; 2. Associate Matron, in the West; 3. Treasurer, at the right of the Matron, in front; 4. Secretary, at the left of the Matron, in front; 5. Conductress, in the South; 6. Associate Conductress, in the North; 7. Warder, at the door, inside, and at the right of the Associate Matron; 8. Sentinel, at the door, outside; 9. Adah, on the first or Blue point of the Star; 10. Ruth, on the second or Yellow point; 11. Esther, on the third or White point; 12. Martha, on the fourth or Green

STATIONS OF THE OFFICERS.



MATRON.

PATRON.

ASSOCIATE MATRON.

TREASURER.

SECRETARY.

CONDUCTRESS.

ASSOC. CONDUCTRESS.

WARDER.

SENTINEL.

ADAH.

RUTH.

ESTHER.

MARTHA.

ELECTA.

point; 13. Electa, on the fifth or Red point; 14. Worthy Patron, in the East, at the left of the W. M., except during the ceremonies of initiation, when he shall preside, with the W. Matron on his right.

JEWELS AND REGALIA.

The officers will be distinguished by their respective jewels of office, made of yellow metal, as follows:

Worthy Matron—Five-pointed Star, with Gavel in the center, suspended from a purple ribbon.

Associate Matron—Five-pointed Star, with a full Sun in the center, suspended from a ribbon of the five appropriate colors.

Treasurer—Five-pointed Star, with Cross-keys in the center, suspended as above.

Secretary—Five-pointed Star, with Cross-pens in the center, suspended as above.

Conductress—Five-pointed Star, with Scroll and Baton crossed in the center, suspended as above.

Associate Conductress—Five-pointed Star, with Baton in the center, suspended as above.

Warder—Five-pointed Star, with Dove in the center, suspended as above.

Sentinel—Five-pointed Star, with Cross-swords in the center, suspended as above.

Adah—Triangle, with Sword and Vail engraved in the center, suspended from a blue ribbon.

Ruth—Triangle, with Sheaf standing, engraved in the center, suspended from a yellow ribbon.

Esther—Triangle, with Crown and Scepter engraved in the center, suspended from a white ribbon.

Martha—Triangle, with Broken Column engraved in the center, suspended from a green ribbon.

Electa—Triangle, with Cup engraved in the center, suspended from a red ribbon.

Worthy Patron—Five-pointed Star, with Square and Compasses in the center, suspended from a purple ribbon.

COLORS OF THE DEGREES.

The colors appropriate to the degrees are—*Blue* for Adah; *Yellow* for Ruth; *White* for Esther; *Green* for Martha; *Red* for Electa.

SCARF OF THE WORTHY MATRON.

The Scarf of the Worthy Matron to be made of royal purple velvet, or purple watered silk, three inches wide, edged with gold lace, quarter inch (three lines) wide,

gold fringe two and a half inches (thirty lines) long around the lower edge ; on the left shoulder a five-pointed Eastern Star, worked in silk ; at the crossing a golden rosette, from which may be suspended two gold tassels, about three inches long. To be worn from the left shoulder to the right side. The official jewel to be suspended from the Scarf over the left breast.

SCARF OF THE ORDER.

A Scarf of the five colors, three inches wide, with a rosette on the shoulder, breast, and at the crossing, worn from the right shoulder to the left side, is the distinctive regalia of the Order.

MEMBERSHIP.

The benefits of this Rite are mainly to the female sex. For them this temple has been reared, these walls set up. They are its crown and glory ; and its value consists in the spirit with which they enter into and conduct it, and the grace they throw around it.

The female members of this Rite are styled *Sisters ;* male members, *Brothers.*

The lawful recipients of the Adoptive Rite are such worthy females—being the wives, mothers, widows, daughters, or sisters of affiliated Master Masons—as may be regularly proposed by one and recommended by another member of the Chapter, and unanimously elected by the members at a stated meeting of the Chapter. The petition must in all cases be presented at a stated meeting, referred to a committee of three members for investigation, and lay over until the next regular meeting before ballot. The sister or daughter of a Mason, if

unmarried, must have attained the age of eighteen years to be eligible for initiation or membership.

Master Masons, affiliated in regular Lodges, may be proposed by a member of the Chapter, and unanimously elected.

PETITION OF A LADY.

The form of petition for the degrees and membership from a lady may be as follows :

To the Worthy Matron, Officers, and Members of ..... *Chapter, No.....*, *Order of the Eastern Star :*

Your petitioner, the (*wife, mother, widow, sister or daughter*) of Bro. ....., of .....Lodge, No. ... solicits the light and privileges of the Order of the Eastern Star in your Chapter.

If the prayer of her petition shall be granted, she pledges her honor that she will, in all respects, conform to the legal requirements of your Chapter, and be subject to the rules and regulations of the Grand Chapter.

(Signed)

.....

Recommended by.....

PETITION OF A MASTER MASON.

The form of petition from a Master Mason may be as follows :

To the Worthy Matron, Officers, and Members of ..... *Chapter, No.....*, *Order of the Eastern Star.*

Your petitioner, a Master Mason, and a member in good standing in .....Lodge, No. ...., held at ....., solicits the light and knowledge of the Order of the Eastern Star in your Chapter.

If the prayer of his petition shall be granted, he pledges his honor as a Master Mason, that he will, in all respects, conform to the legal requirements of your Chapter, and be subject to the constitutional rules and regulations of the Grand Chapter.

(Signed,)

.....

Vouched for by.....

The Brother, if elected, will be required to pledge his honor as a Master Mason, in open Chapter, to conform to the rules and regulations of the Order.

FORM OF PETITION WITH DIMIT.

A sister or brother having dimitted from a Chapter, and wishing to affiliate with another, will use the following form of petition :

To the W. Matron, Officers, and Members, of .... Chapter, No....., Order of the Eastern Star.

The undersigned, now (or late) a member of ..... Chapter, No...., solicits affiliation in your Chapter.

If this petition shall be granted, she (he) pledges her honor (his honor as a Mason) to conform, in all respects, to the legal requirements of your Chapter.

(Signed,)

.....

Recommended by.....

The petition may be accompanied by a certificate of withdrawal from the last Chapter of which the petitioner was a member, which may be obtained by a majority vote, and may be in the following form :

"We have seen his star in the East
And are come to worship him."

To all Enlightened Members of the Order of the Eastern Star, wherever dispersed, this Certificate of Withdrawal witnesseth :

THAT Sister*....., whose name appears in the margin of this instrument, was initiated into the light of the Adoptive Rite in ..... Chapter, No. ....., (or affiliated therein,) holden at ....., on the .... day of ....., 18... *Ne Varietur.*

That during her connection with us, she has in all respects conformed to the legal requirements of this Chapter, and the constitutional rules and regulations of the Grand Chapter.

That in her withdrawal she bears with her the love and esteem of the officers and members of this Chapter ; and we affectionately commend her to the friendship and protection of all enlightened members of the Order wherever in the journey of life she may be found.

[SEAL.] ....., *W. Matron.*

....., *Secretary.*

MEMBERSHIP OF A SISTER.

The membership of a Sister is forfeited :—1. By absence from the meetings of the Chapter for two years ; 2. By suspension (for the time specified), expulsion, or dimission from the Chapter.

MEMBERSHIP OF A BROTHER.

The membership of a Brother is forfeited :—1. By suspension, expulsion, or dimission from the Masonic Lodge of which he was a member ; 2. By suspension or

* Vary this form to suit a certificate for a Brother.

expulsion from the Chapter. Restoration by, or affiliation with, a Lodge will remove the first cause; restoration by the Chapter will remove the second.

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP.

No person can be an active member of more than one Chapter at the same time, nor shall any member be permitted to withdraw from a Chapter until all dues and other indebtedness to the same are paid or remitted.

POWERS AND AUTHORITY OF A CHAPTER.

A Subordinate Chapter has original powers and authority for action in the following: 1. In all matters of discipline involving inquiry into misconduct, and trial and punishment for the same; provided, however, that in all cases an appeal to the Grand Chapter or Grand Patron shall be allowed: 2. In all appropriations of the funds of the Chapter; 3. In the free choice and selection of its own officers and members; 4. In the disposition of its own property, except its charter, books of record and accounts, and rituals. These, of right, belong to the Grand Chapter.

LANDMARKS OF THE ORDER.

1. The Eastern Star is the basis of the five Degrees of the Adoptive Rite; the name and character of the Rite are unchangeable.

2. Its lessons are Scriptural, its teachings are moral, and its purposes are beneficent.

3. Its obligations are based upon the honor of the female sex who obtain its ceremonies, and are framed upon the principle that whatever benefits are due by the Masonic Fraternity *to* the wives, mothers, widows, daughters, and

sisters of Masons, corresponding benefits are due *from* them to the Brotherhood.

4. A belief in the existence of a Supreme Being, who will, sooner or later, punish the willful violation of a solemn pledge.

5. The modes of recognition, which are the peculiar secrets of the Rite, cannot, without destroying the foundation of the system, be changed.

6. That a covenant of secrecy, voluntarily assumed, is perpetual ; from the force of such obligation there is no possibility of release.

7. The control of the Rite lies in a central head, styled the Grand Chapter of the State of ....., of the Adoptive Rite, or in the prerogatives of the Grand Patron, when the Grand Chapter is not in session.

8. That the ballot for candidates for membership must be unanimous, and be kept inviolably secret.

9. The right of every Chapter to be the judge of who shall be admitted to its membership, and to select its own officers ; but in no case can the ceremonies of the Order be conferred unless a Master Mason in good standing in the Masonic fraternity presides.

10. Every Sister is amenable to the laws and regulations of the Order, and may be tried for offenses, though she may permanently or temporarily reside within the jurisdiction of another Chapter.

11. The right of every Sister to appeal from the decision of her associates in Chapter convened, to the Grand Chapter, or to the Grand Patron.

12. The prerogative of the Grand Patron to preside over every assembly of the Rite wherever he may visit, and to grant dispensations for the formation of new Chapters within the territorial jurisdiction.

13. That every Chapter has the right to dispense the

light of the Adoptive Rite, and to administer its own private affairs.

14. Every Chapter should elect and install its officers annually.

15. The right of every Sister to visit and sit in every regular Chapter, except when such visitor is likely to disturb the harmony or interrupt the business of the Chapter she proposes to visit

PRELIMINARIES TO OPENING A CHAPTER.

Those precautionary measures which form so prominent a feature in all secret affiliated systems, whereby they are enabled to detect impostors and reject them from their assemblies, are of the highest importance in the Adoptive Rite, in view of the peculiar intimacy between the sexes which constitute the prime feature and aim of this society. This intimacy is, in itself, calculated to furnish the world with a subject for slanderous imputations ; and it will infallibly render any negligence allowed, though apparently slight and unimportant, serious in its consequences.

The officers of the Chapter are, therefore, required by every principle of prudence and self-preservation, to study critically the most thorough measures of precaution ; to exercise extraordinary vigilance in purging the assemblies, and to allow neither fear nor favor to bias them in the admission of unworthy visitors.

The meetings of the Chapter are *Regular* or *Special.*

The *Regular* meetings are those enjoined by the by-laws, and may be held weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly, at the choice of the members expressed in the by-laws.

The *Special* meetings are those summoned at the will of the Worthy Matron, or, in her absence, by the Associate Matron, upon any proper emergency.

No meeting, either *Regular* or *Special*, is lawfully held unless the Charter is present.

No business is proper at a *Special* meeting, except such as is stated in the call.

The place of meeting may be in a hall or private apartment. It must be sufficiently secluded to insure secrecy. A contiguous apartment for the preparation of candidates, the reception of visitors, etc., is essential.

QUORUM FOR BUSINESS.

A meeting of the Chapter, for any business except conferring degrees, may be opened and held by seven members, the Worthy Matron or Associate Matron being one. The number proper to confer the degrees must be at least nine, of which the Worthy Patron shall be one.

ARTICLES NECESSARY FOR CHAPTER.

The paraphernalia necessary for the business of the Chapter are one or more small Bibles, the charter, by-laws, seal, a signet, for a complete explanation of the degrees, a flooring, consisting of a five-pointed Star, painted with the proper colors and emblems, on the center of which should stand the altar, with an open Bible thereon, and a Gavel on the pedestal in the East, for the use of the Matron. When the degrees are conferred, a vail for the Candidate, sword and vail for Adah, culms of barley (artificial) for Ruth, crown and scepter for Esther, broken column for Martha, and cup for Electa.

BALLOT BOX.

The Associate Conductress has charge of the ballot box, who will present and receive it from the Matron, carry it to the A. Matron for her ballot, and then place it on the altar, when the members will proceed to vote.

OPENING CEREMONIES.

THE hour specified in the by-laws (or indicated in the summons, when the meeting is a special one) for opening the Chapter having arrived, the furniture and paraphernalia of the Chapter being in place, the members assembled, the officers, except the Patron and Associate Conductress, will retire to the inner ante-room; the Patron ascends the dais, in the East,* gives one blow with the Gavel, which is the signal for attention, and requests the Associate Conductress to invite the Worthy Matron and other officers to enter the Chapter-room. This request is obeyed; they enter in two lines, the Conductress and Associate Conductress leading, and passing to the right and left, bring the Matron and Associate Matron to the center, as in the following diagram:

A. COND. *		* COND.
TREAS. *		* SEC.
ELECTA. *		* ADAH.
MARTHA. *		* RUTH.
ESTHER. *		* WARD.

W. M. * * A. M.

As the officers enter, the Chapter is called up. The Patron invites the Matron to the East (the Conductress and Associate Conductress acting as escorts), and presents her the Gavel, when she says:

W. M. The Officers will resume their several

* That end of the apartment which is occupied by the Presiding Officer is termed the *East*. During the entrance of the officers, good effect may be produced by the use of music.

stations and prepare for the active duties of the Chapter.

They do so. The Sentinel closes the door and sees that the ante-rooms are secure. When all is in readiness, the W. Matron will say:

W. M. Sisters, Brothers and Visitors of. . . . . Chapter, No. . . , Order of the Eastern Star, the hour has arrived for us to resume our labors. To open our Chapter in a manner that will insure the solemnity of our work, and to secure the best results, I must require your uninterrupted attention and assistance. Sister Associate Matron,* ascertain whether all present are members of the Order of the Eastern Star, or entitled to be present.

A. M. Sister Conductress, ascertain and report if all present are members of the Order of the Eastern Star, or entitled to be present.

The Conductress and Associate Conductress will use the customary means of examination, by passing around the room, if necessary, to question those with whom they are not personally acquainted. When fully satisfied, they resume their stations, and the Conductress replies:

Cond. Sister Associate Matron, all sisters present are members of the Order of the Eastern Star, and entitled to be present.

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* As each officer is addressed by the W. M., she rises without further signal, and remains standing during the ceremonies of opening.

A. M. Worthy Matron, all sisters present are members of the Order of the Eastern Star, and entitled to be present.

The Patron will assure himself that the gentlemen present are entitled to seats in the Chapter, and so announce the fact to the W. M. If there should be any Master Masons present who have not been obligated, that ceremony should be performed immediately after the Chapter shall be declared open.

W. M. It is well. In behalf of the Chapter, I extend a hearty welcome to all. Sister Warder, you will instruct the Sentinel that we are engaged in the solemn ceremonies of opening our Chapter, and direct (her)* him to permit no interruption to be made while we are thus engaged.

The Warder opens the door and repeats the directions of the W. M. She then closes the door and says:

W. Worthy Matron, no interruption will be made from without.

W. M. Sister Associate Matron, what number of officers constitute a Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star when complete, and what titles do they bear?

A. M. A complete Chapter requires fourteen, and their titles are: Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Associate Matron, Treasurer, Secretary,

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* The Sentinel may, at the option of the Chapter, be a Sister or Brother; the latter is preferable.

Conductress, Associate Conductress, Warder, Sentinel, Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, and Electa.

W. M. Where is our Sentinel stationed?

A. M. Outside the closed door.

W. M. What are his duties? and explain his badge of office.

A. M. To protect the Chapter against the introduction of improper persons. His badge of office, the Cross-swords within the star, emblems of protection, admonishes him that upon his watchful care depends our security against interruption, without which the solemnity of our proceedings would be destroyed and all secrecy lost.

W. M. Where is our Warder stationed?

A. M. At the Southwest entrance of the Chapter, Worthy Matron.

W. M. What are your duties, Sister Warder? and explain your badge of office.

W. To act in conjunction with the Sentinel in protecting the Chapter from the intrusion of improper persons. My badge of office, the Dove within the star, an emblem of peace, admonishes me that a state of harmony and serenity becomes all our proceedings, and that I should use my utmost endeavors to promote it.

W. M. Where is the Associate Conductress stationed?

W. In the North, Worthy Matron.

W. M. What are your duties, Sister Associate Conductress? and explain your badge of office.

A. C. To receive and prepare candidates for initiation, and to assist the Conductress in the active duties of the Chapter. My badge of office, the Baton within the star, an emblem of direction, admonishes me that good discipline is essential to the success of our society. My own attention to the directions of my superior officers will be the measure of respect which others will pay to me.

W. M. Where is our Conductress stationed?

A. C. In the South, Worthy Matron.

W. M. What are your duties, Sister Conductress? and explain your badge of office.

C. To ascertain if all persons are entitled to be present at the opening of the Chapter, and to conduct candidates during their initiation. My badge of office, the Scroll and Baton, emblems of prepared plans and their fulfillment, admonishes me that the first impressions made upon a candidate, when entering our Chapter, are permanent, and should be for good; and that it depends greatly upon the manner of conducting her through the mazy labyrinth of our rite, to make those impressions lasting and what we desire they should be.

W. M. Where is our Secretary stationed?

C. In the Southeast, Worthy Matron.

W. M. What are your duties, Sister Secretary? and explain your badge of office.

Sec. To carefully observe the proceedings of the Chapter; to record that which is proper to be written; to receive all moneys due the Chapter and pay the same to the Treasurer, taking her receipt therefor. My badge of office, the Cross-pens within the star, emblems of power and intelligence, admonishes me that as a faithful record is kept by an invisible pen of all our thoughts and actions, so I must be faithful to my trust, that the good deeds of my companions may not go unrecorded, and that the moneys intrusted to my hands shall have proper record and direction.

W. M. Where is our Treasurer stationed?

Sec. In the Northeast, Worthy Matron.

W. M. What are your duties, Sister Treasurer? and explain your badge of office.

Treas. To receive all moneys from the Secretary, giving her a receipt therefor, and pay them out only upon an order signed by the Worthy Matron and Secretary. My badge of office, the Cross-keys within the star, emblems of security, admonishes me to the strictest fidelity in the preservation and disbursement of the funds intrusted to my keeping. The relief of the distressed, and

the necessary expenses of our Chapter would be forfeited by a violation of the sacred obligations assumed by me.

W. M. Where is Adah stationed ?

Treas. At the first point of the Star, Worthy Matron.

W. M. Sister Adah, communicate to us the duties of your station, and explain the color and emblems appropriate to the blue point of our Central Star.

Adah. To make known to all proper inquirers the light, knowledge, and beauty of the blue ray, which represents the clearness of the sky, when all clouds have vanished, and symbolizes chastity, loyalty, fidelity, and a spotless reputation. My emblems are the Sword and Vail, emblematic of the heroic conduct of Jephthah's Daughter, whom I represent.

W. M. Where is Ruth stationed ?

Adah. At the second point of the Star, Worthy Matron.

W. M. Sister Ruth, communicate to us the duties of your station, and explain the color and emblem appropriate to the yellow point of our central Star.

Ruth. To make known to all proper inquirers the light, knowledge, and beauty of the yellow ray, which symbolizes constancy, purity, and the

lustre of great brightness. My badge, the Sheaf, is an emblem of plenty, which being composed of distinct and minute parts, is gathered together by patient industry. Such was the generous labor of the humble gleaner Ruth, whom I represent.

W. M. Where is Esther stationed?

Ruth. At the third point of the Star, Worthy Matron.

W. M. Sister Esther, communicate to us the duties of your station, and explain the color and emblems appropriate to the white point of our central Star.

Esther. To make known to all proper inquirers the light, knowledge, and beauty of the white ray, which symbolizes light, purity, and joy. My badge, the Crown and Scepter united, is an emblem of royalty and power. In the exercise of high authority, we should be governed by the purest principles of justice and moderation. It was by the practice of these attributes that Esther, whom I represent, saved her people from extirpation.

W. M. Where is Martha stationed?

Esther. At the fourth point of the Star, Worthy Matron.

W. M. Sister Martha, communicate to us the duties of your station, and explain the color and

emblem appropriate to the green point of our central Star.

Martha. To make known to all proper inquirers the light, knowledge, and beauty of the green ray, the purity and freshness of which are emblems of delight—the beauties of nature—symbolizing hope and immortality. My badge, the Broken Column is typical of the death of a human being, cut off in the vigor of manhood, and expresses the sisterly grief of Martha, whom I represent.

W. M. Where is Electa stationed?

Martha. At the fifth point of the Star, Worthy Matron.

W. M. Sister Electa, communicate to us the duties of your station, and explain the color and emblem appropriate to the red point of our central Star.

Electa. To make known to all proper inquirers the light, knowledge, and beauty of the red ray, symbolically representing ardor and zeal, which should actuate all who are engaged in the holy cause of benevolence. My badge, the Cup, is an emblem of the bitter draught, of which we are constantly partaking through life; but, however distasteful, will, in the end, overflow with blessings, rich, abounding, and eternal.

W. M. Where is our Associate Matron stationed?

Electa. In the West, Worthy Matron.

W. M. What are your duties, Sister Associate Matron? and explain your badge of office.

A. M. To assist the Worthy Matron in the discharge of her duties, and to preside during her absence. My badge of office, the Refulgent Sun within the star, an emblem of brightness, admonishes me to assist the Worthy Matron, by my counsel, as the rising sun enlightens the day, being ever ready to assume her station, should she be absent.

W. M. Where is the Worthy Matron stationed?

A. M. In the East, Worthy Matron.

W. M. Explain her duties, responsibilities, and badge of office.

A. M. To preside over the deliberations, and see that the purposes of the Chapter are properly conducted. Her badge of office, the Gavel within the star, the highest emblem of authority, admonishes her that upon her judgment and discretion rests the government of this Chapter, and the prosperity of our beautiful Order in this place. Her responsibilities to God for the faithful discharge of her duties in this Chapter, and to her Sisters for the dissemination of light and knowledge, should ever prompt her to do her work in a spirit of faith and prayer.

W. M. It is in this spirit that I propose to open our Chapter, and perform whatever duties may

devolve upon me; and that we may have the needed grace to do our work well, let us pray.

The W. Matron calls up the Chapter with two raps of the Gavel, when the Patron offers the following

PRAYER.

O Lord of all mercies and blessings! commend us, we beseech Thee at this time, in taking upon ourselves the work of administering to the wants of the poor and of extending the reign of peace and love upon earth. Grant us, first, a willing mind which Thou wilt accept according to that which we have, and then, such ability from Thy hand as that we may not dishonor the noble cause we have espoused. Bless our humble labors to the promotion of truth and love, unity and peace. Make all grace to abound toward us. Enrich us in everything to all bountifulness, that, through us, there may be thanksgiving unto Thee, our God. Amen.

W. M. You have all spoken well, my sisters, and given utterance to noble sentiments. The pleasing thoughts, so beautifully expressed, are embodied in our Opening Hymn, in which I request you all to join.

While standing, all will join in singing the

OPENING ODE.

See Opening Odes, at p. 92.

At the conclusion of the singing, the Matron says:

W. M. In the name of the departed heroines whose virtues we should strive to emulate; in the name of our great Sisterhood, knit together in bonds of charity and sincere friendship, and in the name of our Heavenly Father, who has declared that he loveth a cheerful giver, I declare.... Chapter, No...., Order of the Eastern Star, open and in due order for the dispatch of business. Sister Warder, you will so instruct the Sentinel.

The W. M. gives the signal for all to be seated, and the Warder informs the Sentinel that the Chapter is open. The Associate Conductress opens the Bible on the altar, and the business of the meeting proceeds.

CLOSING CEREMONIES.

The business of the Chapter being completed, the Worthy Matron proceeds as follows:

W. M. Sister Associate Matron, does any work of charity or benevolence remain unperformed?

A. M. None, Worthy Matron, within my knowledge.

W. M. Then, Sister Warder, you will instruct the Sentinel that we are about to close this

Chapter, and to permit no interruption to be made while we are thus engaged.

The Warder instructs the Sentinel, and then says :

W. Worthy Matron, no interruption will be made from without.

W. M. It is well. Sisters and Brethren, unite with us in singing our Closing Ode.

The W. M. calls up the Chapter, when all participate in singing the

CLOSING ODE.

See Closing Odes, at p. 96.

At the conclusion of the singing, the Matron says :

W. M. Sisters and Brethren, we go forth into the world, not knowing the things that shall meet us there, save that troubles and trials everywhere abound in the labyrinth of human life. Let us never be dismayed, for our Heavenly Father has promised to strengthen us, to help us, and to uphold us with the right hand of his power.

Farewell !

All reply, FAREWELL !

INITIATION.

The applicant for the light and privileges of the Order of the Eastern Star having been elected to receive the degrees and be admitted to membership in the Chapter, having been notified by the Secretary, will present herself at the place of meeting, at her early convenience, and remain in the ante-room. The order "Initiation" having been reached, the W. Matron will say:

W. M. Sister Associate Conductress, you will retire and ascertain if there are any candidates in waiting, and report to the Worthy Patron.

The A. C. retires and, finding a candidate in the ante-room, ascertains her name, returns to the Chapter room, and says:

A. C. Worthy Patron, I find (*naming the person or persons*)* present and desirous of being initiated into our Order.

The W. M. will now present the Gavel to the Patron, who takes charge of the Chapter, and turning to the Secretary, says:

W. P. Sister Secretary, has the petition of this (these) candidate been received in open Chapter, and has she been regularly elected to receive the degrees of the Order?

Sec. She (they) has.

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* If there is more than one candidate, all the questions, etc., must be varied to suit the case.

W. P. Then, Sister Associate Conductress, you will again retire, and propound to the candidate the necessary questions, and, if satisfactorily answered, prepare her for the ceremonies of initiation, and, when so prepared, make the usual alarm at the door of the preparation-room.

The A. C. retires and says to the candidate:

A. C. Do you still entertain the desire expressed in your petition, to receive the light and privileges of the Order of the Eastern Star?

Cand. I do.

A. C. It is well. Your request shall be complied with.

The A. C., taking the candidate into the preparation-room, will say:

A. C. My friend, human life is a labyrinth through which we all wander blindly, and too often, alas, in ignorance. It is good to have a friend by our side and a friendly hand that can guide us with infallible certainty and safety through its intricate mazes. Permit me, therefore, for a time, to act as your guide, and to prepare you for the ceremonies of our Order.

The A. C. then prepares the candidate, by removing her hat, gloves, cloak or shawl, and jewelry, so that she will appear plainly dressed. A thin white vail is thrown over her head and face, and she is led to the inner door

of the Chapter, where the A. C. gives ***** distinct raps. The Conductress, rising in her station, says :

Cond. Worthy Patron, there is an alarm at the door of the preparation-room.

W. P. Sister Conductress, ascertain the cause of the alarm, and ask the necessary questions.

The Conductress goes to the door, gives five distinct knocks, opens the door, and says :

Cond. Who knocks at the door of our Chapter ?

A. C. The Associate Conductress, with a candidate who desires to be initiated into our Order.

Cond. Has the candidate made satisfactory answers to the necessary questions ?

A. C. She has.

Cond. Is she properly prepared ?

A. C. She is.

Cond. (*To the candidate.*) My friend, have you well considered the request you make ?

Cand. I have.

Cond. Are you prepared to undergo the necessary trials and assume our obligation of secrecy ?

Cand. I am.

Cond. Are you also prepared faithfully to perform the duties and to accept the responsibilities of a Sister of the Eastern Star ?

Cand. I am.

Cond. Learn then the first lesson of a petitioner. Be patient, and wait.

The Conductress closes the door, turns to the Patron, and says :

Cond. Worthy Patron, the alarm was caused by the Associate Conductress with the candidate, who desires to be initiated into our Order.

W. P. Has she made satisfactory answers to the necessary questions ?

Cond. She has.

W. P. Then you will admit her.

The Conductress, opening the door, says :

Cond. Orders have been transmitted to me by our Worthy Patron, that this candidate be admitted into our Chapter, we having entire confidence in her integrity and fidelity. Enter, dear friend, for we are prepared to give you a hearty welcome.

As the candidate crosses the threshold, the Conductress takes her by the left arm and conducts her around the room, outside of the star ; slow soft music being played. While making the circuit of the star, the Conductress will recite the following, or an Ode may be sung :

Cond. You have, doubtless, well considered the step you have taken in entering this Order.—It is dedicated to Charity, Truth, and Loving Kindness.—You come here of your own free choice. Complain not, therefore, at any trial.—A seal is set upon your lips.—Let it warn you to be ever

silent and secret as to all that may befall you or be made known to you here.—Be not weary in well doing.—Wo unto those who seek to take upon themselves burdens which they are unable to bear!—Wo unto the faithless and insincere, who assume their obligations lightly, and forthwith forget them!—Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding.—In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.

The Conductress and candidate having made the circuit, and reached the West, the Conductress will say:

Cond. Sister Associate Matron, I have the pleasure of introducing (*naming the person*), to be presented by you to the Worthy Patron. She declares herself prepared to assume our obligation of secrecy, and faithfully to perform the duties of a Sister of the Order of the Eastern Star.

A. M. My friend, you are heartily welcome. Sister Conductress, cause the candidate to face the East.

The candidate is placed in position, facing the East, when the Associate Matron will say:

A. M. Worthy Patron, I have the honor to present (*naming the candidate and the particular relation in which she stands to Freemasonry*), whose petition has been approved by this

Chapter; who now declares herself ready to enter upon the good work in which we are engaged, and to pledge her honor in our Covenant of Adoption for the faithful discharge of all its duties.

The Patron rises and addresses the candidate.

W. P. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you into this Chapter. Your recommendations have convinced us that you merit the honor we confer, and are worthy the responsible trust with which we are about to invest you. We trust that the lessons taught here will both please and instruct you. The object for which we are associated together are to comfort, aid, and protect each other in our journey through the labyrinth of human life, and to make its various hardships lighter by means of cheerful companionship and social pleasures. We are willing you should join us in this pleasing work. We are in possession of certain secrets, by means of which we recognize each other wherever we may meet. We are willing to make you acquainted with these secrets, that you, too, may be recognized as a member of this society. We are governed by a [Supreme]* Grand Chapter, which makes our

* In States having a Grand Chapter, the word "Supreme" will be omitted.

laws and regulations uniform with those of all other Subordinate Chapters of this Order, and by a form of by-laws framed by ourselves. We are bound to obey these laws, regulations, and by-laws, while we remain members of the society. In this obedience we shall expect you to share.

It becomes, then, my pleasing duty, as the representative of the highest responsible officer of this Chapter, to explain to you the nature of the Covenant of Adoption. It is the solemn pledge which you must give to this assembly, before you can participate in the labors or enjoy the privileges of the Order. But we do not wish, nor would we permit, you to assume this pledge, save with your own consent, and with a full understanding of all that is implied by it. If, after the Covenant shall have been rehearsed, you should be unwilling to bind yourself thus solemnly, you may, without impediment or offense, retire from this place. The covenant is as follows, and to all its parts we require your decided assent. Let the candidate be placed in position.

A small Bible is placed in the hands of the Candidate in the following manner: The hands are tightly clasped around it; the back of the book presented forward, and as high as the breast; the fingers interlacing each other; the thumbs crossing upon the edges of the cover. Being thus prepared, the Patron will repeat the Covenant of Adoption. The Chapter is called up.

W. P. You will carefully preserve in sacred and inviolable secrecy, and under no circumstances improperly divulge any of the signs, passes or secrets belonging to the Order of the Eastern Star.

You will cheerfully obey the constitution and regulations of the Grand Chapter and the by-laws of the Chapter of which you may be a member.

You will, so far as in your power, liberally, dispense to your Sisters advice in their troubles, sympathy in their sorrows, and aid in their misfortunes.

You will cautiously avoid speaking evil of your Sisters, or performing any act of injustice or unkindness toward them.

Do you to all these pledges solemnly covenant your honor as a woman?

Cand. I do.

W. P. It is well. We cheerfully accept the pledge you make us. We share with you in this Covenant and do now receive you into our band. You will be conducted to the Eastern Star. At the various points you will receive instructions in the characteristics of the Order.

Sister Conductress, you will remove the vail from the eyes of our newly adopted Sister.

The Conductress removes the vail and takes the Bible from the hands of the candidate. The Patron returns to the dais, and says:

My Sister, you will carefully observe whatever passes under your notice, and let the impressive lessons taught in the ceremonies through which you are now to be inducted, sink deeply into your heart.

Sister Conductress, you will now conduct our Sister through the intricate mazes of the labyrinth to the several points of the Star for further enlightenment.

The Patron calls down the Chapter. The Conductress places the candidate on her right, and conducts her, to the first point of the Star, where will be found Adah, who represents Jephthah's daughter.

Cond. Sister Adah, at the request of the Worthy Patron, I present to you our Sister, who, having been inducted into the Order by the Covenant of Adoption, is to be instructed by you in the binding force of a vow, as illustrated in the history of Jephthah's daughter.

Adah. His request shall be complied with.

Jephthah was the ninth judge, and one of the mightiest men of Israel. Being called upon in the extremity of his country's trials to go at the head of its armies and resist the fierce attacks of the Ammonites, its enemies, he prepared his household for a campaign that would perhaps cost him his life, and then, committed himself to the care of God in solemn prayer. "And Jephthah vowed a

vow unto the Lord, and said: If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands, then it shall be that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the Lord's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering."—

JEPHTHAH MEETING HIS DAUGHTER.

Jephthah went forth to battle, the victory was gained, and the warrior returned to Mizpeh, exulting in his success. God had redeemed his people. The thanks and praises of a grateful nation were freely bestowed on him. The warrior-father hastened home to enjoy the congratulations of his neighbors, and still more of his daughter, his only child. Arrived upon the hill which overlooked his dwelling, he halted. The Lord had "without fail delivered the children of Ammon into his hands," he had returned in peace to his home, and whatsoever "came forth of the doors of his house, to meet him, must be the Lord's to be offered up for a burnt offering." The door

of his house opened, and "behold! his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances." Jephthah, when he saw her, rent his clothes and in the anguish of his heart cried aloud, "Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low. I have opened my mouth unto the Lord, and I cannot go back." Adah casting aside the instruments of rejoicing, and with due solemnity, answered: "My father, if thou hast opened thy mouth unto the Lord, do to me according to that which hath proceeded out of thy mouth." She had but one request to make and then she was ready for the sacrifice. She asked that she might go among the mountains for two months, and there, with her young friends, prepare her mind to meet in calmness and resignation her impending doom. The request was granted.

When the two months had expired, and the day arrived which was to bring this sad affair to a close, a vast multitude gathered together to witness the event. Precisely as the sun came on the meridian, she was seen, followed by a long train of her friends, winding their way down the mountain's side to the fatal spot where the altar was erected, and her father with an almost broken heart was standing, prepared to fulfil his vow.

She approached him, and with one long kiss of affection bade him farewell. Taking hold of

the thick mourning vail which she wore, he threw it gently over her face and drew his sword. But she rapidly unvailed herself, and said she needed not to have her face covered, for she was not afraid to die. Her father replied that he could not strike the blow while she looked upon him, and again cast it over her. She threw it off the second time, and turning from him said she would look up to the heavens, so that his hand should not be unnerved by the sight of her face, but that she would not consent to die in the dark. A third time, however, he insisted, and a third time she as resolutely cast it off, this time holding the ends of it firmly in her hands, and then, in the hearing of the multitude, she solemnly declared that if this ceremony was insisted upon, she would claim the protection of the law and refuse the fate that otherwise she was willing to endure. She said it was the practice to cover the faces of murderers and criminals, when they were about to be put to death, but she was no criminal, and died only to save her father's honor. Again she averred that she would cast her eyes upward upon the Source of Light, and in that position she invited the fatal blow. It fell. Her gentle spirit mounted to the heavens upon which her last gaze had been fixed, and so the deed was

consummated, which has rendered the name of Jephthah's daughter forever famous in the annals of Scripture.

The sign of the degree is given in this manner——.

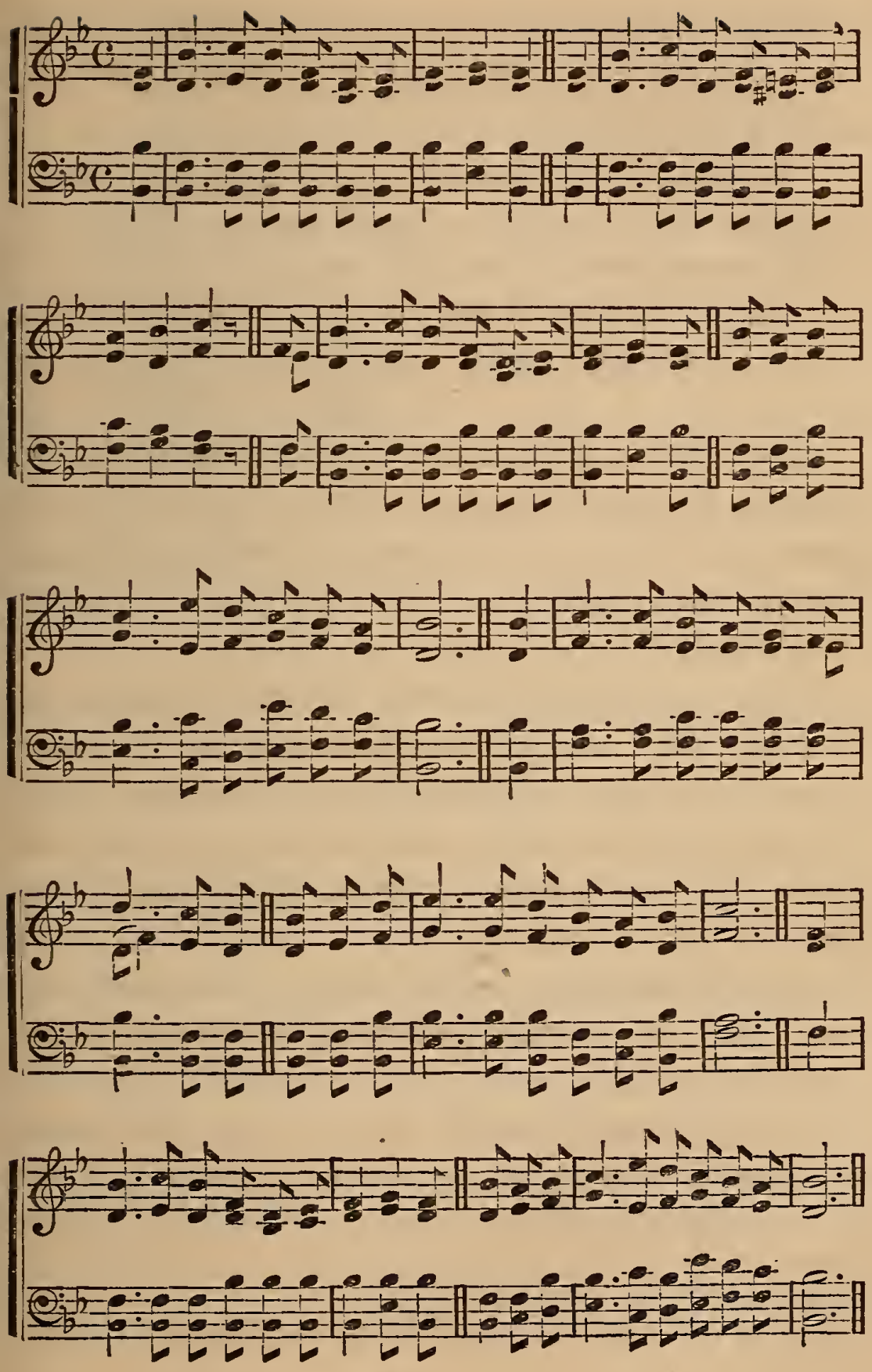
The pass——.

The color appropriate to the degree is Blue, by which we symbolize the azure and hazy atmosphere that enveloped the mountains of Judea, in whose caves and solitude Jephthah's daughter dwelt, with her companions, two months, while preparing for death. It also symbolizes fidelity, and should teach us to be faithful to all our obligations.

The emblems are the Sword and Vail. By the sword in the hands of the father was the daughter slain. The vail alludes to the firmness with which Adah adhered to her determination to die in the light, suffering no stain to rest upon her memory after death.

Sister Conductress, you will now conduct our Sister to the second point of the Star for further instruction.

The Conductress proceeds with the candidate to the second point of the Star, by passing to the left of the altar, where will be found Ruth. While the Conductress and candidate are passing from the first to the second point of the Star, the following, or other appropriate verse, may be sung as a solo or quartette.



See 'midst the multitude the victim stands,
  Dauntless, serene, though terror palsies them!
And she must die by her own father's hand,
  And she must die a sacrifice of shame!
Of shame? ah, no! she flings the vail abroad;
Once, twice, yea, thrice; looks hopeful to God;
Fixes the noon-day sun with earnest eyes,
Then crowned with innocence the maiden dies!

At the conclusion of the music, the Conductress will say:

Cond. Sister Ruth at the request of the Worthy Patron, I present to you our Sister, to be instructed in the devotional respect due to religious principles, as illustrated in the history of Ruth.

Ruth. His request shall be complied with.

Ruth was of the nation of Moab, an idolatrous people. She married a man named Mahlon, formerly a native of Bethlehem, who had taken up his residence in the land of Moab, where he died. He was a worshipper of God, and by his pious example and teachings she was converted to the true religion. A few happy years followed, and then the calamity of widowhood came upon her. Upon his death-bed he solemnly exhorted her for her soul's sake, to leave the dangerous company in which she would be thrown, and go to the city of Bethlehem, where dwelt the people of God.

Immediately after his death, leaving her home

and friends, she journeyed in company with her aged mother-in-law to Bethlehem, where she arrived in due time, wayworn and so poor that she was compelled, for her own support and that of her friend, to seek some means of securing a livelihood. There was nothing, however, that she could do, save to go into the barley fields—for it was the time of harvest—and glean among the poorest and lowest classes of the people for a support. The very first attempt she made at this labor exhausted her strength. She had been reared in luxury, and the toil was too great for her. The sharp stubble wounded her feet. The blazing sun oppressed her brain. The jeers and insults of her companions alarmed and discouraged her, and just before the hour of noon, with only two little handsful of barley, as the fruits of her labor, she sought the shade of a tree to rest herself for a few moments before retiring from the field.

RUTH IN THE FIELD OF BOAZ.

At this moment Boaz, the owner of the field, entered. He was a pious and charitable man.

None in Bethlehem was so rich, none more beloved and honored than he. As he entered the field, he observed near the gleaners the form of one differing in garb and manners from the rest, and asked the overseer who she was. In reply he learned that she was a woman from Moab, who had asked leave to glean among the sheaves, but that evidently she was unaccustomed to such labor, for she had been there since the sunrise, and had gathered but two little handsful of barley. This excited the kindly feelings of Boaz, and he went to her to say a word of sympathy, and to offer her relief.

As she saw him approach, she supposed him to be the owner of the field, coming to order her away. Ever since the morning she had met nothing but scorn and reproach, and she looked for it now. Raising her hands, therefore to show him how small were her gleanings, and that she had taken nothing from the sheaves, she placed them meekly upon her breast, as showing her willingness to submit to whatever lot she might be called upon to endure, and cast her eyes upward as appealing to God against the inhumanity of man. It was for God she had forsaken home, wealth, and friends, and the disconsolate widow, alone in the world had none other to whom she could look for protection. This mute appeal was

not lost upon the kind heart of Boaz. He spoke words of sympathy and tenderness to her. He encouraged her to persevere. From the provisions brought for his reapers he bade her eat and drink. He directed that handsful of barley should be dropped on purpose in her way by the reapers, so that she might gather an ample supply; and when she returned home to her mother-in-law, she bore with her enough for their immediate necessities.

The sign of the degree is given in this manner——.

The pass——.

The color appropriate to the degree is Yellow, which symbolizes the ripened grain in the field of Boaz, in which Ruth was an humble gleaner.

The sheaf is an emblem of plenty, which from its distinct and minute parts, teaches us that by patient industry, gleaning here a little and there a little, we may accumulate a competency to support us when the infirmities of age unfit us for the fatigues of labor.

Sister Conductress, you will now conduct our Sister to the third point of the Star for further instruction.

The Conductress proceeds with the candidate as before, around the altar to the third point of the Star,

where will be found Esther. The following verse may be sung:

Widow, mourning for the dead, 'Midst the gold-en har-vest mourn-ing, Beats the sun thy ach-ing head? Burns the stub-ble 'neath thy tread? No kind look thy gaze re-turn-ing, These poor par-cels all thy store? Sure-ly God will give thee more, Sure-ly God will give thee more.

At the conclusion of the singing, the Cond. will say:

Cond. Sister Esther, at the request of the Worthy Patron, I present to you our Sister, to be instructed in that truly beautiful virtue, fidelity to kindred and friends, as exemplified in the history of Esther.

Esther. His request shall be complied with.

Esther was a Jewish damsel. Her family had not returned to Judea after the permission given by Cyrus, and she was born beyond the Tigris, about five hundred years before the Christian era. Her parents being dead, Mordecai, her uncle, took charge of her education. After Ahasuerus had divorced Queen Vashti, search was made throughout Persia for the most beautiful woman, and Esther was the one selected. She found favor in the eyes of the king, who married her with royal magnificence, bestowing largesses, and remitting of tributes.

ESTHER BEFORE THE KING.

Her matchless beauty having attracted the attention of the king, her virtues secured his love, but her wonderful genius gained his permanent admiration and respect. No woman has

ever left behind her such a record of wisdom as Esther. It is a standing tradition among her people that as Solomon was to men, so was Esther to women, the wisest of her sex. The more intimately the king became acquainted with her mental powers the more he respected them. There was no problem of state so intricate that she was not able to solve. In time, she became his confidant, and shared with him in the greatness of his kingdom. These circumstances enabled her in a season of peril to save her nation from destruction.

The enemies of the Jews, who were numerous and powerful, had brought false accusations before the king, and persuaded him to promulgate an edict that, upon a fixed day, the entire race throughout all Persia should be exterminated. The chosen people of God were doomed to be extirpated from the face of the country. The instrument to avert so great a calamity was the heroine Esther.

No sooner did she learn of this cruel edict than she promptly resolved to save her people or perish in the same destruction. The king had often admitted his indebtedness to her counsels, and pledged his royal word to grant her any request she might make of him, even "to the half of the kingdom," and Esther now resolved to test his sincerity, and appeal to him, even at the risk of her own life. She attired herself in her white

silken robes, placed a brilliant crown upon her head, gathered her maidens around her, and went boldly and in state to the palace of the king.

It was a day of Grand Council, a gathering of the governors, princes, and officers of Persia. The dependent nations had sent in their deputations to pay homage and tribute, and the royal guards thronged the ante-chambers of the palace. It was a standing law of that place that none should enter the king's presence without summons, under penalty of death, and the sentinels, as the Queen passed, reminded her of this and warned her of her danger. But she bade them stand aside, and so, pale but firm, she passed through the vestibule into the great Council-chamber.

The scene was magnificent. The king upon his throne of gold and ivory; the gorgeous equipages of his officers, and the splendor of the apartment itself, all made up a display rarely equaled and never surpassed. Through all the crowd of courtiers Esther boldly passed, and amidst the deathly silence of the observers, stood up before the king—pale with fasting and sleeplessness, but not with fear. She fastened her eye fearlessly upon the king, who, angry at the violation of the law, frowned sternly upon her. It was the crisis of her life. The wise woman felt it to be so, and at once reminded him of his former pledges by a

method understood between them. She saw his golden scepter bent toward her, and hastened to secure her pardon by coming forward, kneeling and "touched the top of the scepter." Graciously said the king, "What wilt thou, Queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom." The admiring crowd applauded the generosity of their monarch and as he placed her beside him on the throne, gave utterance to their feelings in loud expressions of admiration at her beauty, discretion and favor with the king.

The sacred narrative informs us of the consummate tact with which Esther pursued the advantage she had gained. She achieved a complete success and saved the nation, which, to this day, keeps an annual festival in her honor.

The sign of the degree is given in this manner—.

The pass——.

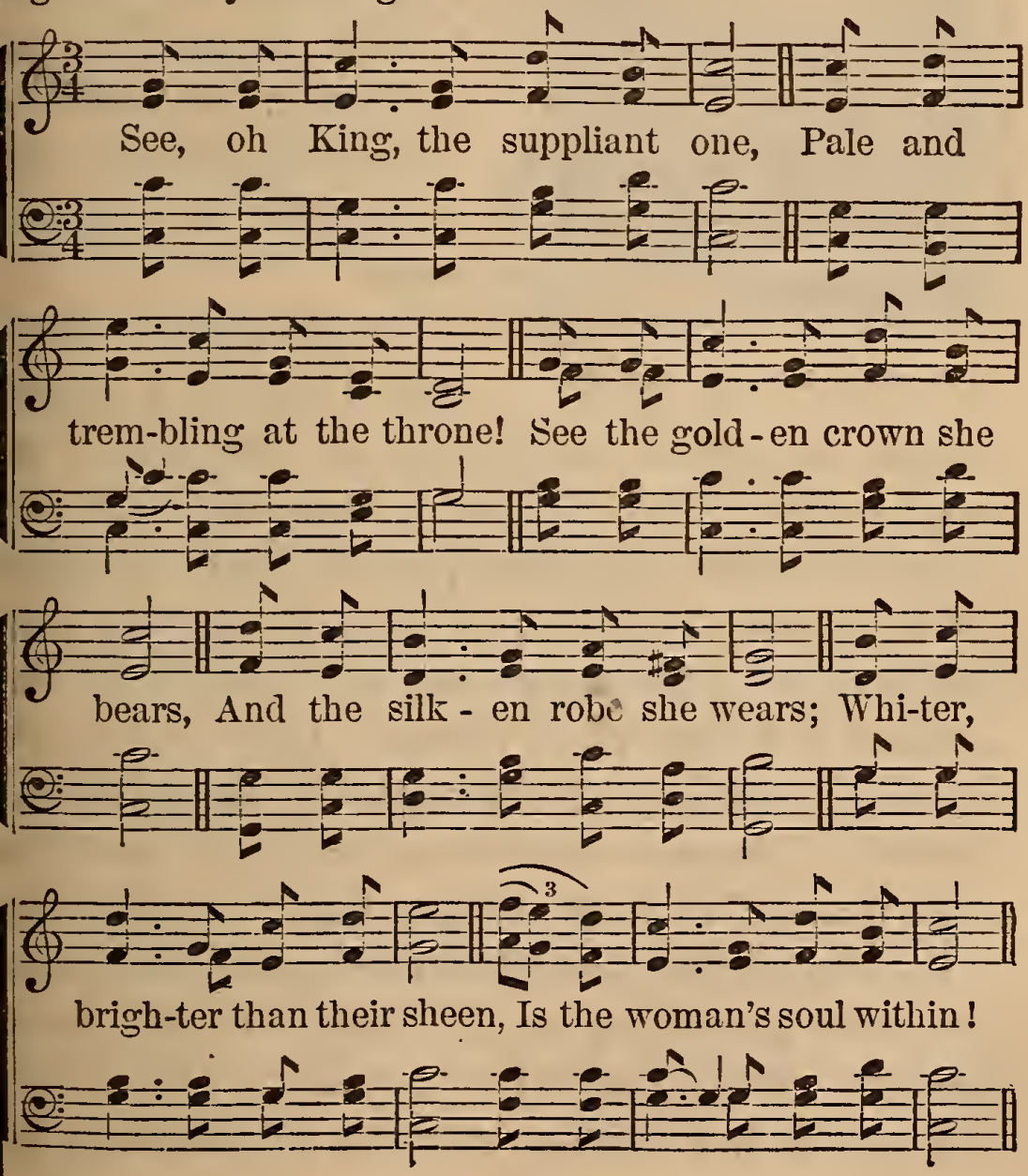
The color appropriate to the degree is White, and alludes to the white silken robes in which Esther was dressed when she appeared before the king in the court of Persia. It is emblematical of the spotless purity of her character, and teaches us to be ever mindful of our rectitude of conduct in the affairs of life so as to be above the tongue of reproach.

The Crown and Scepter united is an emblem of

royalty and power. It reminds us of the dignity of the king and the meek submission of the queenly petitioner.

Sister Conductress, you will conduct our Sister to the fourth point of the Star for further instruction.

The Conductress proceeds, as before, around the altar to the fourth point of the Star, to Martha. The following verse may be sung.



At the conclusion of the singing, the Cond. will say:

Cond. Sister Martha, at the request of the Worthy Patron, I present to you our Sister, to be instructed in the sublime virtue whereby we may display proper respect to undeviating faith in the hour of trial, as exemplified in the history of Martha.

MARTHA BEFORE CHRIST.

Martha. His request shall be complied with.

The history of Martha is that of a young woman, oppressed with grief at the loss of an only brother. The family, composed of two sisters, Martha and Mary, with their brother Lazarus, were residents of Bethany. They were particularly known among the people of the country as followers of Christ. Upon a certain occasion, during the absence of their Divine Master, Lazarus was taken suddenly and violently ill, and in a short time died. At the close of the fourth day, intelligence reached them that Jesus was returning to Bethany. Martha hastened to meet him, fell on her knees before him, and raised her hands imploringly towards his

face, and, with a voice almost suppressed with emotion, cried aloud: "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died! But I know that even now whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee!"

Then said Jesus: "Thy brother shall rise again." She replied: "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

Jesus said unto her: "I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

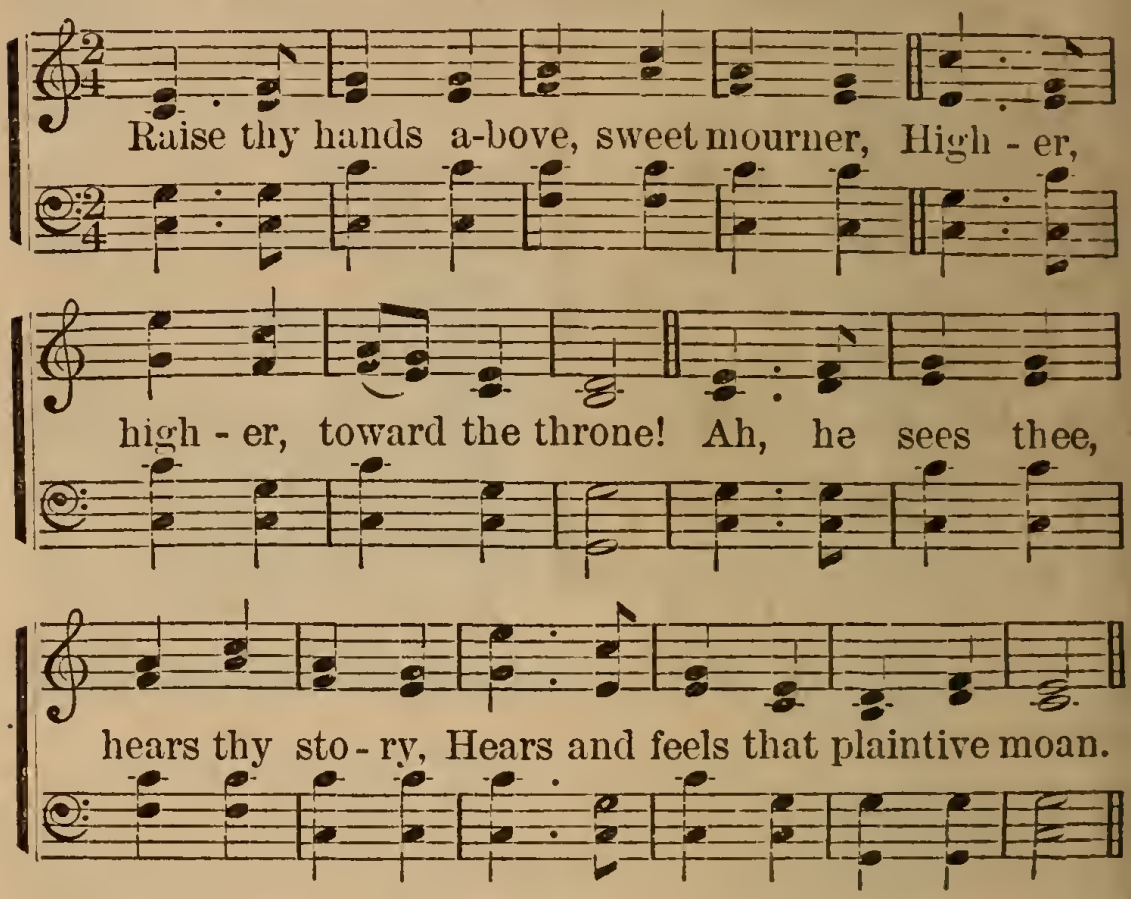
The sign of the degree is given in this manner——.

The pass——.

The color appropriate to the degree is Green, emblematical of the immutable nature of Truth and its victory. The Evergreen is the symbol of our faith in the immortality of the soul, and the realization of an everlasting happiness beyond the grave. The Broken Column is an expressive emblem of the uncertainty of human existence, and the outward evidence of the decease of a young man cut down in the vigor of life.

Sister Conductress, you will now conduct our Sister to the fifth point of the Star for further instruction.

The Conductress will proceed, as before around the altar to the fifth point of the Star, where will be found Electa. The following verse may be sung.



At the conclusion of the singing, the Cond. will say:

Cond. Sister Electa, at the request of the Worthy Patron, I present to you our Sister, to be instructed in the ever commendable virtue of patience and submission under wrongs, as exemplified in the history of Electa.

Electa. His request shall be complied with.

Electa was a lady of high repute in the land of Judea, of noble family, wealthy and accomplished, who lived in the days of St. John the Evangelist, and was remarkable for her profuse

benevolence to the poor. Electa had been educated in accordance with the times and customs of the people who ruled the affairs of the country in which she lived. The idols of Rome were the only gods she had been taught to worship. Like Ruth, however, she had been rescued from the direful influence of heathenism, and from the abominations of that sinful system. Soon after the conversion of many of the people to the doctrines of Christ, she became converted to the belief of his power to save those who repented of their sins. She professed before the world her faith in the despised Nazarene, though she well knew that to do so was to expose herself to reproaches, to persecution, and probably to death.

ELECTA AND ST. JOHN.

Her splendid mansion became a house of abode to weary and persecuted pilgrims; her immense wealth was devoted to their relief. The poorest of the flock—the poverty-stricken and foot-sore beggar—coming up the great avenue to the door, was met as the father met

his prodigal son. She ran out hastily to meet him, took him warmly by the hand and welcomed him. She led him to the best apartment, refreshed him with the choicest wine, supplied him with wholesome food, cheered and clothed her guest, nor suffered him to depart until he was strengthened for his perilous journey.—Throughout all the country her name was famous as the philanthropic, the benevolent, and the affectionate Electa. During this time, and while she was preparing for a better world, and for a fate which, though protracted, was eventually to come upon her, a fearful persecution began, and any one who confessed the name of Jesus was required to recant and deny his faith, or suffer the penalty of the law then promulgated through the country. Electa was visited by a band of Roman soldiers, whose chief officer proposed the test of "casting a cross on the ground and putting her foot upon it," whereupon he would report her recantation, and she be saved from a painful and ignominious death. She refused, and her family were cast into a dungeon and kept there one year. Then the Roman judge, who had often partaken of her hospitality, and who was anxious to befriend her, came and offered her another opportunity to recant, promising that if she would do so she

would be protected. Again she refused, and this brought the drama to a speedy close. The whole family, with thousands of others, were put to a cruel death. While she was expiring and about to pass "to the better land," she prayed with her dying breath: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!"

The sign of the degree is given in this manner——.

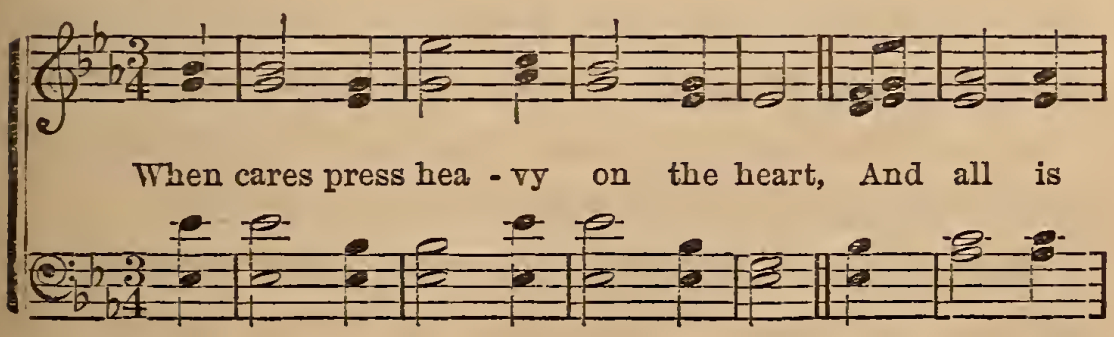
The pass——.

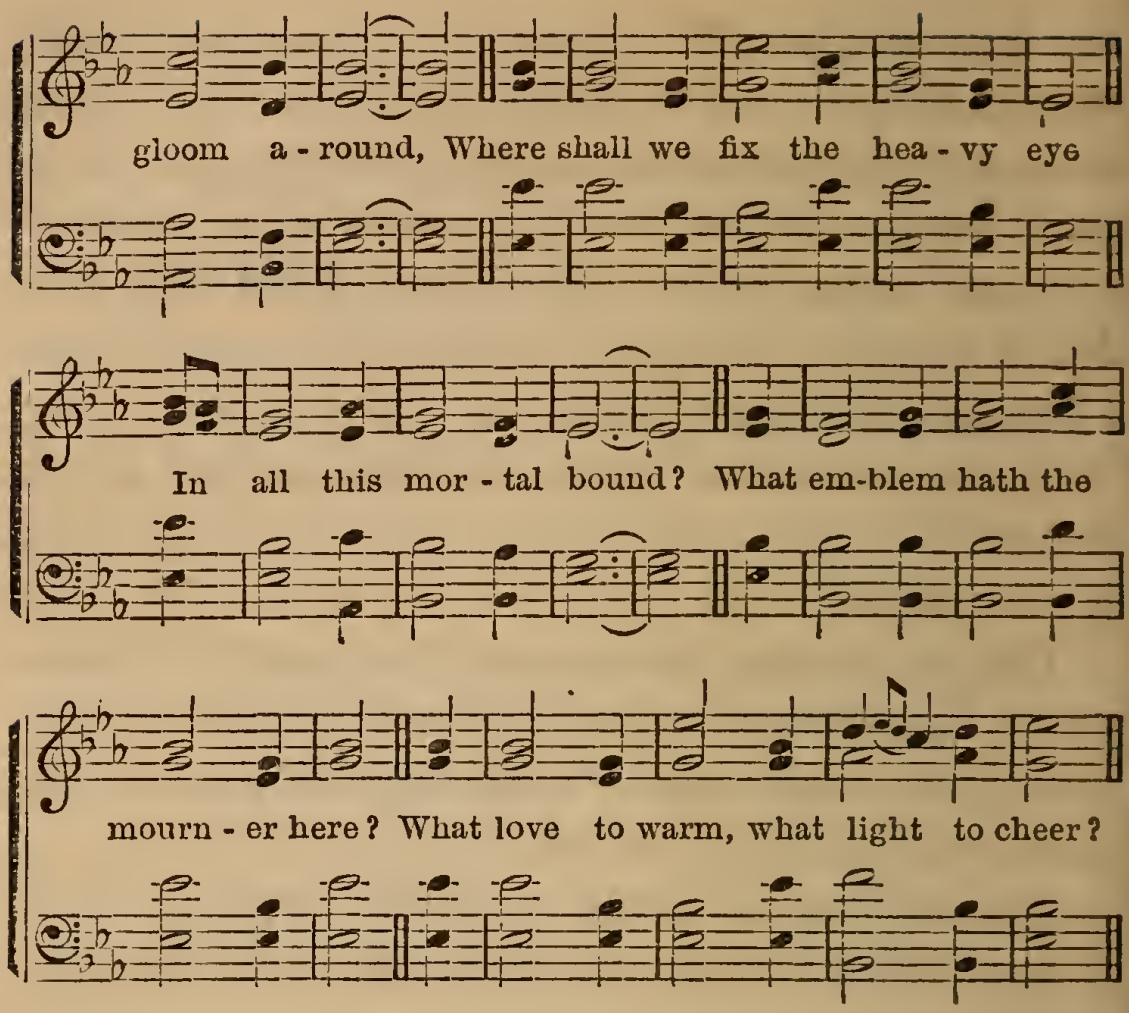
The color appropriate to the degree is Red, which symbolizes fervency, and alludes to the noble generosity of Electa, displayed toward the poor and persecuted of her faith.

The emblem is the Cup, which reminds us of the generous hospitality of Electa, excited by the view of poverty and distress.

Sister Conductress, you will conduct our Sister to the Worthy Patron for further instruction.

The Conductress leads the candidate to the East, making the circuit of the altar. The following verse may be sung:





At the conclusion of the singing, the Conductress says:

Cond. Worthy Patron, again I present to you our Sister, who has, according to our direction, passed through the labyrinth and to the several points of our bright Star, where she has been taught those truly sublime virtues exemplified in the lives of Jephthah's daughter, Ruth, Esther, Martha, and Electa. You will further enlighten her by portraying a more complete knowledge of the ceremonies and beauties of our Order.

W. P. We hail with true pleasure your coming among us. The great work in which we

are engaged is sufficient for us all, and we shall rejoice to find you excelling in your zeal that of the most devoted members of our society. In the further progress of our ceremonies you will give attention to the remarks of our Worthy Matron.

W. M. My dear Sister, for by that endearing title you will hereafter be known among us, in behalf of.... Chapter, No. .., I cordially welcome you to a participation in our privileges.

We are laboring to increase our own happiness and to promote that of others. Our experience and the wisdom we gain from the Scriptures, alike teach us that this world is a harsh, unfriendly scene, poorly adapted to impart felicity, and that it is chiefly by combining the efforts of the good and true, in the work of morality and religion, that happiness is to be acquired and extended. The greater our ability to do good, the more pleasure we shall enjoy.

Our meetings, like the family circle, are held in private, that we may arrange our plans for the good work in which we are engaged, without interruption from those who cannot understand or sympathize with us. Here, we strive to learn our duty as beings who possess an immortal part, and, when we return home and before the world, it should be our earnest care to perform it. We

cultivate a spirit of harmony that the enemy of souls may gain no advantage over us. And as a large portion of our work lies in acquiring a knowledge of how best to practise the great moral principles, sisterly love, relief, and truth, and in endeavoring to find the true path that leads to everlasting life, we often unite to address the Heavenly Throne, and to plead with God that the very spirit of faith and wisdom may descend upon us and make our meeting-place a place like Heaven. In such a prayer let us now, with our Worthy Patron, cheerfully join.

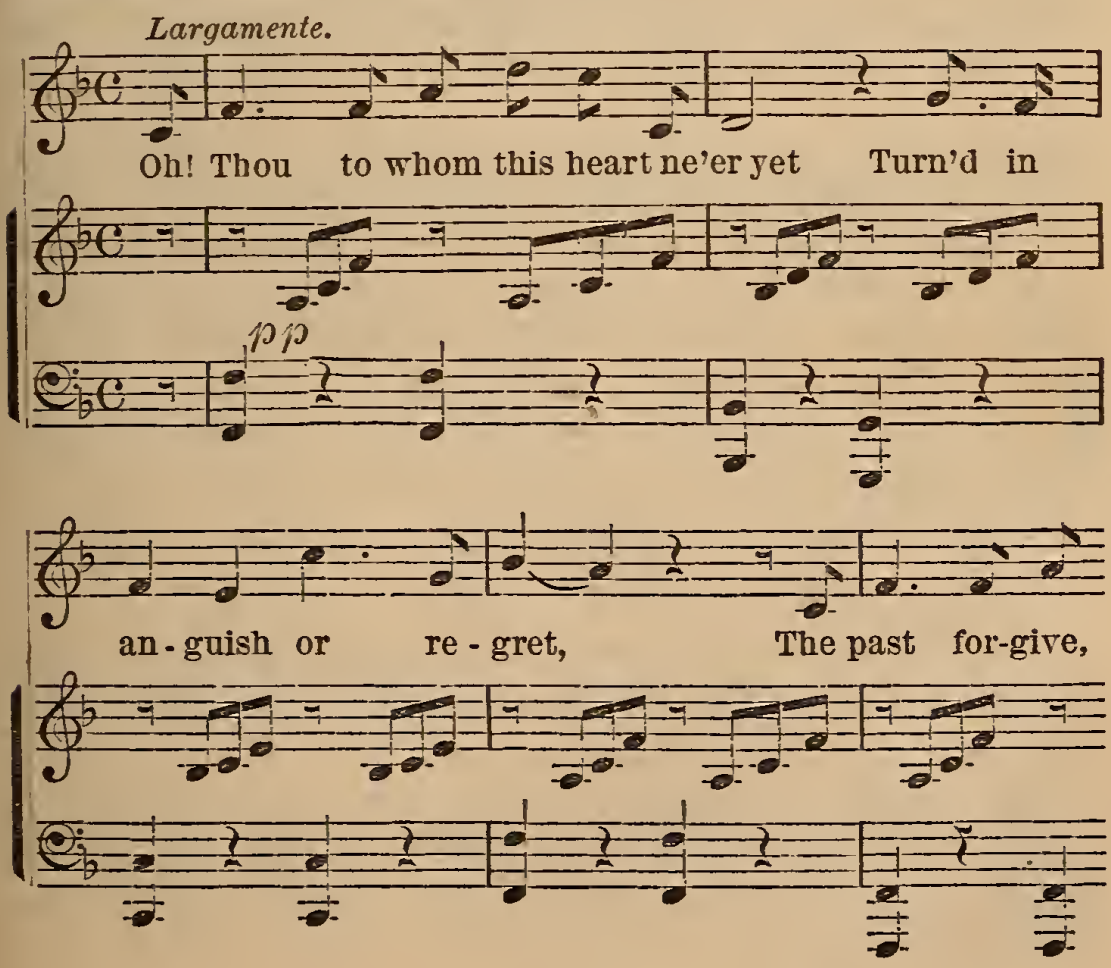
The Patron calls up the Chapter; all the members step forward, except the Conductress and candidate, and joining hands, form a circle around the altar, leaving a space next, and at the left of the W. Matron, for the Conductress and candidate. The Conductress with the candidate at her right, will take a position between the dais and the circle, facing the West. The Patron, at the altar, on the west side, facing the East. When he shall have reached the words in the Prayer, "golden chain thus lengthened," the W. Matron extends her left hand, taking the right hand of the candidate, and draws her and the Conductress into the circle, making the chain complete. At the words, "each link shall fall away in death," all drop hands and remain standing until close of prayer and singing.

PRAYER.

W. P. Source of all Wisdom, Truth, and Love! Grant to us that, in the reception of this person,

we may add strength to our strength, and grace to our grace. Oh, may the golden chain thus lengthened become the brighter for this link, and be strengthened for the great work we do. Enlarge our powers to benefit mankind and to honor Thee, our God. And when, one by one, each link shall fall away in death, may the parting be temporary and the meeting eternal. In the world where death comes not, may we realize the full happiness of loving and serving Thee forever. Amen.

Immediately after the Prayer, the following, or other suitable music, may be introduced.



the fu - ture spare; Sweet Spir - it, hear my

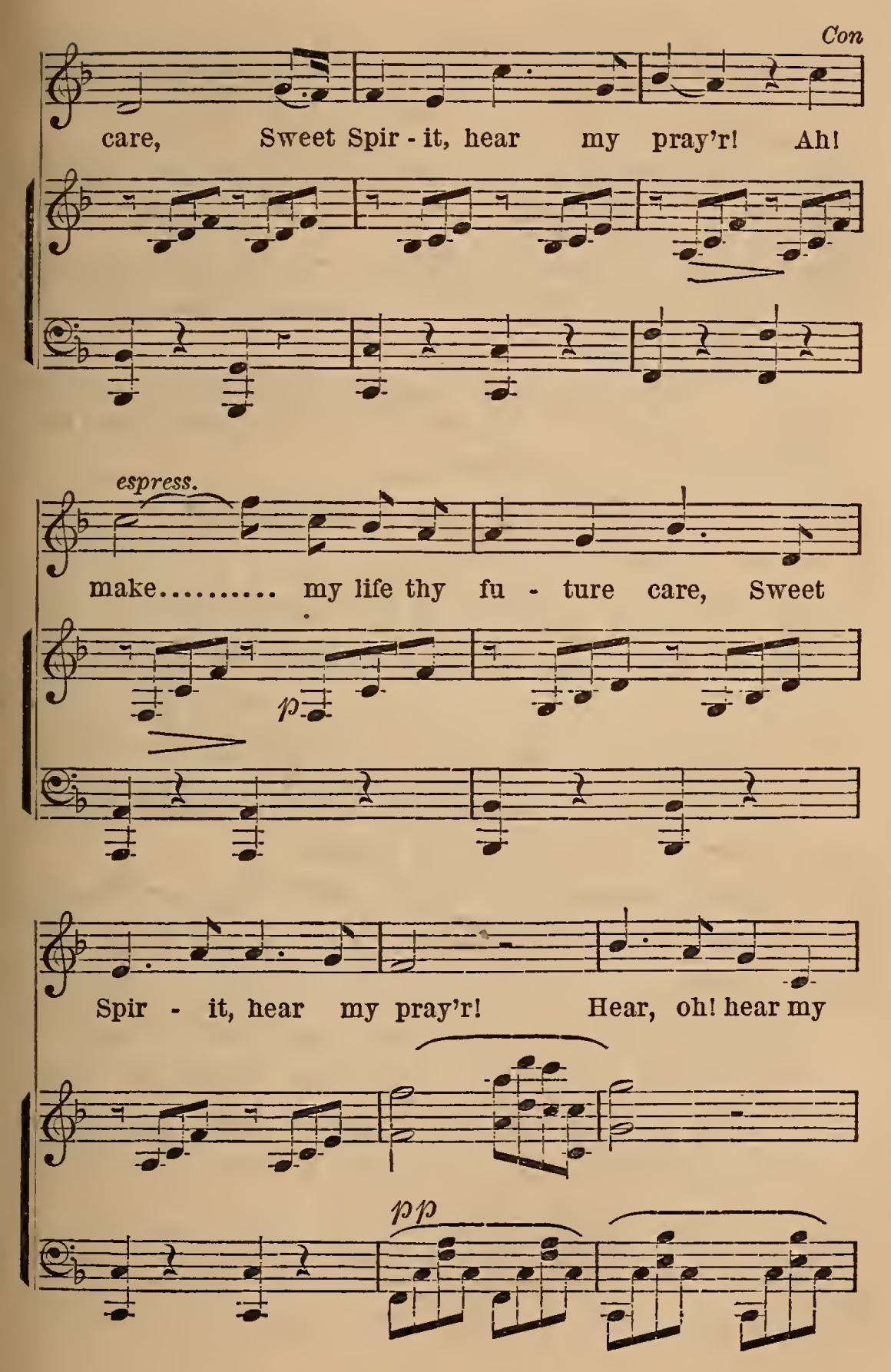
Dolciss.

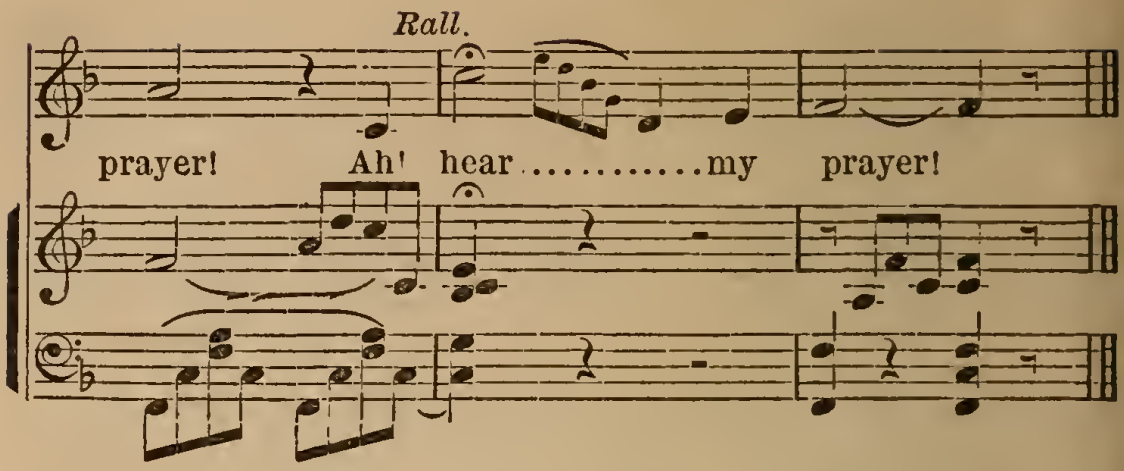
pray'r! Oh! leave me not a-lone in grief. Send this

blight - ed heart re - lief! Send this blighted heart re-

Dolciss.

- lief!..... ..... Make thou my life thy fu - ture


Con
care, Sweet Spir - it, hear my pray'r! Ah!
espress.
make..... my life thy fu - ture care, Sweet
p
Spir - it, hear my pray'r! Hear, oh! hear my
pp



At the conclusion of the singing, the Patron returns to the East, calls the Chapter to order, and continues the ceremonies, with the following

LECTURE TO THE CANDIDATE.

W. P. My Sister, in taking upon yourself the solemn vows of our Order, you enter upon a new phase of life; you will henceforth be numbered among this beautiful Sisterhood, who have for their inspiration the Star of Bethlehem, which will guide all the faithful to the New Jerusalem —that city not made with hands.

I must remind you that with the privileges come the responsibilities. You have been informed that we are associated together, that we may comfort, aid, and protect each other in this our earthly pilgrimage; that our duties to each other are simply labors of love. The covenant of adoption has been rehearsed for you, which you have promised faithfully to keep.

The responsibilities of the Order, therefore, rest lightly upon the faithful, and we trust that you

will bear them with that meekness and grace which is found only with the good and true.

You were informed when you first entered this Chapter room, that we were in possession of certain signs, passes, and secrets, by means of which we were enabled to recognize each other wherever we might meet, and that we propose to put you in possession of these secrets, that you too might be recognized as a member of the Order. You have already been conducted to the several points of the Star, where you have received instructions as promised. The signs and passes spoken of were then explained, which, if properly understood, will enable you to make yourself known as a member.

There are five degrees in this Order, which all initiates receive: The first, that of *Adah, the Daughter's;* second, that of *Ruth, the Widow's;* third, that of *Esther, the Wife's;* fourth, that of *Martha, the Sister's;* fifth, that of *Electa, the Mother's.* On undergoing an examination, you will be required to give certain answers to particular questions, and these questions will be asked in the order the degrees were received by you. That you may comprehend the whole work of examination, I will, with the assistance of our Conductress,* now rehearse it. You will care-

* This work may be done with the W. Matron or the Conductress; the latter is preferable.

fully observe my questions and her answers, as they would be your answers were you undergoing an examination.

W. P. Sister Conductress, are you a member of the Order of the Eastern Star?

Cond. I * * * * * * *.

W. P. What * * * ?

Cond. I * * * * *.

W. P. What evidence can you give to prove yourself a member of the Order of the Eastern Star?

Cond. I have . . . . . signs, ... passes, and . . mottoes, one of them a general, the other a special * * * *, a * * * *, and a * * * *.

W. P. Please give the signs and passes and explain them.

Cond. The first is that of Adah; it is given in this manner.—(*Gives sign.*)

The pass * * *. Color blue, represented in the formation of our emblematical star, by the violet.

The second is that of Ruth, given in this manner.—(*Gives sign.*)

The pass * * *. Color yellow, represented by the yellow jasmine.

The third is that of Esther—given in this manner.—(*Gives sign.*)

The pass * * *. Color white, represented by the white lily.

The fourth is that of Martha—given in this manner.—(*Gives sign.*)

The pass * * *. Color green, represented by the pine leaf.

The fifth is that of Electa—given in this manner.—(*Gives sign.*)

The pass * * *. Color red, represented by the red rose.

The sixth is the sign of salutation, and is given by a member, entering or retiring from a Chapter while at work. Members giving this sign should advance between the altar and Associate Matron, and * * * * * * *, make a slight bow, retire, or take their seats, as the case may require.

W. P. What is the general motto?

Cond. I * * * * * * * * * * * * * *.

W. P. What is the special motto?

Cond. * * * * *.

W. P. Whence did this special motto take its rise?

W. M. From the five heroines of the Order—

Adah, because she freely sacrificed her life to save her father's honor.

Ruth, because she willingly left home and friends, to dwell with the people of God.

Esther, because she was prepared to render up her crown, and even life itself, to save her people from destruction.

Martha, from her undeviating faith in the power and merits of her Redeemer.

Electa, because she preferred to suffer death rather than deny her religious belief. These were * * * * *

W. P. To what word did you refer?

Cond. The cabalistic word, which in an examination should be alternated, I commencing with F. (*Using the words signified by the letters.*)

W. P. A. &c., &c.

Cond. This, Worthy Patron, is all I have to offer, except the grip.

W. P. Which you will now give to the candidate.—(*Gives it.*)

The Patron, addressing the candidate, will say:

This, my Sister, completes the work, with the exception of the explanation of the signet. The cabalistic word is so called from its relation to the star; its place is always on the block, forming the base of the star. It is a chain word, holding and binding together the five points of our emblematic star. (*The Patron will point to the signet.*) Its position on the signet is important, as it forms a part of the lesson of examination.

This concludes the ceremonies of initiation. You will now be conducted to the Secretary's desk, where you will sign the by-laws, and then be re-conducted to your present position.

The Conductress leads the candidate to the Secretary's desk, where she signs the by-laws, and returns with her to the East. The Chapter is called up by the Patron, who says:

W. P. The candidate will face the West. Sisters and Brethren, of . . . . . Chapter, No. . . , our Worthy Sister has passed through the several degrees of our Order, we hope with some pleasure to herself, we know with great satisfaction to us. You will, therefore, give her a hearty welcome.

The Patron resumes his station and places the Chapter in charge of the W. Matron, who will say:

W. M. Sister Associate Matron.

A. M. Worthy Matron?

W. M. You will call the Chapter to recreation, to resume at the sound of the gavel in the East.

A. M. Sisters and Brethren, by order of the Worthy Matron, you will now be at recreation, to resume at the sound of the gavel in the East.

The Conductress or the W. Matron will introduce the candidate to the members, who should receive her kindly, with words of welcome, etc. After which, the W. Matron will call the Chapter to order, proceed with the ordinary business, and finally close the Chapter in form.

INITIATION OF A MASTER MASON.

A gentleman, known to be a Master Mason, having been proposed and elected in a Chapter, presents himself in the preparation room. The order "Initiation" having been reached, the W. Matron will say:

W. M. Sister Associate Conductress, you will retire and ascertain if there are any candidates in waiting, and report to the Worthy Patron.

The A. C. retires, and finding a gentleman candidate in the ante-room, ascertains his name, returns to the Chapter room, and says:

A. C. Worthy Patron, I find in waiting Mr. (*naming the person*), who is, I am informed, a Master Mason, and therefore entitled to receive the light and knowledge of our Order.

The Patron will take charge of the Chapter, and, turning to the Secretary, says:

W. P. Sister Secretary, has the petition of Bro..... been received in open Chapter, and has he been elected?

Sec. He has.

W. P. Sister Associate Conductress, you will again retire and introduce the candidate, first giving the usual alarm at the door of the preparation room.

The A. C. retires, receives the candidate, and gives the usual alarm at the inner door. The Cond. rising in her station, says:

Cond. Worthy Patron, there is an alarm at the door of the preparation room.

W. P. Sister Conductress, ascertain the cause of the alarm.

The Cond. goes to the door, gives the usual alarm, opens the door, and says:

Cond. Who knocks at the door of our Chapter?

A. C. The Associate Conductress, with a candidate, who is desirous of receiving the light and knowledge of our Order.

Cond. (*To the candidate.*) Are you willing to assume our obligation of secrecy, and faithfully to perform the duties imposed by the laws of our Order?

Cand. I am.

Cond. You will wait until the Worthy Patron is informed of your request.

The Cond. closing the door, says to the Patron:

Cond. Worthy Patron, the alarm was made by the Associate Conductress, with a candidate who is desirous of receiving the light and knowledge of our Order.

W. P. Has he answered the necessary questions?

Cond. He has.

W. P. Admit him.

The Cond. opens the door and says:

Cond. It is the order of the Worthy Patron that this candidate be admitted.

As the candidate enters, the Conductress leads him to the West, and says:

Cond. Sister Associate Matron, I have the pleasure of introducing Mr. ....., to be presented by you to the Worthy Patron. He is desirous of receiving the light and knowledge of our Order, and will pledge his honor in our obligation of secrecy.

A. M. My friend, you are heartily welcome. Cause the candidate to face the East.

He is placed near the star, facing the East, when the A. Matron will say:

A. M. Worthy Patron, I have the honor of presenting to you Mr....., whose petition has been accepted by this Chapter, and who is desirous of receiving the light and knowledge of our Order.

W. P. Brother ....., it is with pleasure that I welcome you into the Order, and especially as a member of this Chapter. The grand purposes of the Order are beneficent and social; its lessons are scriptural; its teachings are moral; its obligations are mutual to all its members, and are based upon the universal principle that, whatever

benefits are due by the Masonic Fraternity *to* the wives, mothers, widows, daughters and sisters of Masons, corresponding benefits are due *from* them *to* the Brotherhood. To enable us to properly apply these purposes to the best advantage, we make use of certain signs and ceremonies, by means of which we recognize those who belong to and have a just claim upon us, and mutually bind ourselves by an obligation, not only to secrecy, but to the faithful performance of the duties that devolve upon us as members of this Order.

With this knowledge of its aims and purposes, are you willing to assume the obligations and responsibilities appertaining to this Order?

The candidate answers, and, if in the affirmative, the Patron calls up the Chapter, and repeats the obligation, to which the candidate assents. The Patron returns to the dais and seats the Chapter. If the candidate has never received the signs, passes, etc., he may be brought to the East, and instructed. When time will permit, the following may be rehearsed as a

CHARGE TO THE CANDIDATE.

My Brother, I congratulate you on being found worthy to become a member of this respectable association; a few reflections, therefore, as to its objects and principles, may not be deemed inappropriate at this time.

When, in the vicissitudes of life, we are called upon to assume new and untried duties, a sense of responsibility comes over our minds. We ask ourselves, "How far do these new obligations lead us? Why have we

taken them? In what way will they contribute to our own happiness, and to the good of those around us? It shall be my pleasant duty now to answer these questions so far as the Eastern Star may lead us.

The Order of the Eastern Star has no purpose or design save that of promoting happiness. Its secrets are devised only that, by their aid, we may have additional means of distinguishing *the good and true* from *the base and vile.* Its *source* is the ever-flowing spring of revealed truth. Its *heroines* are selected from the best of those described in the inspired volume. Its *colors* suggest nothing but the purest thoughts. Its *emblems* are borrowed from those that in Scripture foreshadow the life and the house of Almighty God.

Where in human history will you find five female characters so worthy to be combined into *a Star,* as Jephthah's daughter, Ruth, Esther, Martha and Electa? Can we look for greater excellence, more heroic virtues, or deeds of higher renown, than those that make up the narrative of their lives? Adah, daughter of Jephthah, loved her father with so great a love that she gave her young life a ransom for his spotless fame. Ruth, animated by spiritual zeal, left all earthly joys, that she might share the companionship of saints upon earth. Esther rejected the vanities and pride of a royal estate to rescue her people from the hand of the slayer. Martha saw through the cloud of death the assurance of the resurrection, and meekly accepted the promise of her Divine Friend. Electa, summing up the merits and heroism of all the five, yielded her body to the cross, that she might give evidence that she was the child of God. And now the wisest, purest, noblest of womankind may accept these five characters as models of all that women can be in this life and in the life to come.

The affecting and perfect narrations are made graceful by *colors* that both delight the eye and inform the sense. The *Blue*, consecrated to Jephthah's daughter, takes its tinge from the cerulean sky, under which the mountain maid spent the days of her happy youth.

The *Yellow*, consecrated to Ruth, borrows its golden tint equally from the glaring sun above and the ripened corn below, between which throbbed the faithful heart of that matchless damsel of Moab.

The *White*, consecrated to Esther, suggests the dignity which the heroic queen so cheerfully laid aside to preserve God's chosen race from extinction.

The *Green*, consecrated to Martha, leads the chastened spirit through and beyond the grave to all that is animating in the thought of a bright resurrection.

The *Red*, consecrated to Electa, suggests the hospitality inculcated in all the teachings of our Order.

Now, blend these five colors into one; embody them through leaf, and bud, and blossom, in a bright bouquet of flowers; let them flash forth in precious stones and enamel; produce them in the chaste and tasty regalia of the Order, and this world does not produce anything better calculated to attract and instruct the intelligent mind.

Sisters and Brethren, the vows you have taken are only those whose keeping will make you wiser, better, happier. Our chains are wreathed with flowers. Our duties are sweetened by love. Over us all there hangs the great reward promised by Him whose star in the East we have seen and whom we have come to worship.

My Brother, you will now sign the by-laws of this Chapter, which entitles you to full membership, with all the benefits thereof, and subject to all its penalties.

OPENING ODES.

AIR—*One Day Nearer Home.*

Begin the work of praise,
  The joys of song begin,
And bid the mystical rays
  To enter in.

CHO.—The gleaming light, the guiding light,
  The light that shines afar;
  It yields a radiance pure and bright,
  The beautiful, beautiful Star.

It tells of deathless LOVE,
  And FAITH, and HOPE sublime;
It lifts the soul above
  All things of time.

CHO.—The gleaming light, etc.

Then let the song of praise
  Our evening tasks begin;
And bid the mystical rays
  To enter in.

CHO.—The gleaming light, etc.

AIR—*St. Ann's.* C. M.

Supreme in wisdom as in power
  The Star of Ages stands:
Thou canst not search his mind, nor trace
  The working of his hands.

He gives the conquest to the weak,
  Supports the fainting heart;
And courage in the evil hour
  His heavenly aids impart.

On eagles' wings they mount, they soar
  On wings of Faith and Love,
Till, past the sphere of earth and sin,
  They rise to heaven above.

AIR—*Weary Wanderer.*

Weary wand'rer o'er the main,
Seeking for thy home again,
Through the gath'ring mists that rise,
Vailing thy natal skies ;
Look beyond, there's light for thee,
Streaming o'er the turbid sea ;
Softly it smiles, though distant far,
The beautiful Eastern Star.

Stranger on a rocky strand,
Longing for thy father-land,
Through the gath'ring clouds that rise,
Vailing thy natal skies ;
Look beyond, there's hope for thee,
Dawning o'er the tranquil sea ;
Softly it smiles, though distant far,
The beautiful Eastern Star.

Lonely watcher, pale with grief,
Thou shalt find a sweet relief ;
Though thy tears unheeded fall,
Heaven will bless them all ;
Look beyond, there's joy for thee,
Breaking o'er a troubled sea ;
Softly it smiles, though distant far,
The beautiful Eastern Star.

AIR—*Beautiful Star.*

There's a beautiful star, a beautiful star,
The weary travelers have followed far,
Shining so brightly all the way,
Till it stood o'er the place where the young child lay.
CHO.—Star, Star, beautiful Star !
Pilgrims weary we are ;
To Heaven, to Heaven,
We'll follow thee from afar.

In the land of the East, in the shadows of night,
We saw the glory of thy new light,
Telling us, in our distant home,
The King-Redeemer to earth had come.—CHO.

AIR—*Ancient of Days.*

God bless our glorious Star,
Long may it beam afar!
  God bless our Star!
Give us this brilliant light,
To guide by day or night,
Like Israel's pillar bright,—
  God bless our Star!

Refulgent light divine,
Oh, never cease to shine
  Upon this land!
Wisdom in thee we find,
Beauty and strength combin'd,
With friends together join'd,
  In heart and hand.

Let all who love its light,
In joyous strains unite
  To praise our Star.
Long may it brightly gleam,
Queen of the azure stream,
Echo the blissful theme,
  God bless our Star!

AIR—*Coronation.* C. M.

Almighty Parent, deign to bless,
  With thy protecting care,
And cause each heart assembled here,
  To feel thy presence near.

Our Alma then shall form a shield,
  To guard from every ill,
And lead us all by mystic rites
  Each duty to fulfill.

Hosannah! let our prayers arise,
  To Him who rules our state;
Let every trusting, virtuous mind
  His precepts emulate.

AIR—*Dennis.* S. M.

Kind Father ! hear our prayer ;
We bow before thy throne ;
Oh, may we find acceptance there,
And peace before unknown !

Within these walls may Peace
And Harmony be found ;
May Faith and Charity increase,
And Hope and Love abound.

AIR—*Azmon.* C. M.

O God ! we lift our hearts to thee,
And grateful voices raise ;
We thank thee for this joyful day;
Accept our humble praise.

Here may our souls delight to bless
The God of truth and grace,
Who crowns our labors with success,
Among the rising race !

May each unholy passion cease,
Each evil thought be crushed ;
Each anxious care that mars our peace
In Faith and Love be hushed !

AIR—*Manoah.* C. M.

Within our Chapter met again,
With hearts and purpose strong,
We'll raise our notes of grateful praise,
With union in our song.

Around our altar's sacred shrine,
May Love's pure incense rise,
Bearing upon its mystic flame
Our music to the skies.

AIR—*Wimborne.* L. M.

Supreme Grand Patron! God of power,
Be with us in this happy hour:
Smile on our work, our plans approve,
Fill every heart with hope and love.

Let each discordant thought be gone,
And love unite our hearts in one:
May we in union strong combine,
In work and worship so divine!

CLOSING ODES.

AIR—*Home, Sweet Home.*

The Star we have followed now sinks in the west,
But leaves in our hearts all its memories blest,
As spring yields to summer, yet fades not its bloom,
So bear we these memories joyfully home.
  Home, home, sweet, sweet home!
We praise thee, our Father, who giveth a home.

When called from earth's labor to lands far away,
Where sorrow is pleasure and darkness is day,
May all now departing in harmony come,
And bloom in God's presence with angels at home.
  Home, home, sweet, sweet home!
We praise thee, our Father, who giveth a home.

AIR—*Stockwell.* 8*s* & 7*s*.

Part in peace! with deep thanksgiving,
  Off'ring, as we homeward tread,
Gracious service to the living,
  Tranquil memory to the dead.

Part in peace! such are the praises
  God, our Maker, loveth best;
Such the worship that upraises
  Human hearts to heavenly rest.

AIR—*Golden Hill.* S. M.

A charge to keep I have,
  A God to glorify:
A never-dying soul to save,
  And fit it for the sky.

Arm me with jealous care,
  As in thy sight to live:
And oh! thy servant, Lord, prepare
  A strict account to give.

Help me to watch and pray,
  And on thyself rely:
Assured, if I my trust betray,
  I shall forever die.

AIR—*Old Hundred, or Hamburg.* L. M.

As from this place we go once more,
Thy blessing, Father, we implore:
Still may we keep the heavenly way,
And strive to serve thee day by day.

And till again we gather here,
Help us to labor in thy fear;
Thy truth impart, thy love distill,
That we may know and do thy will.

AIR—*Stockwell.* 8*s* & 7*s*.

Lo! the day at last declineth,
  Gather fast the shades of night,
Yet the sun that ever shineth
  Fills our souls with heavenly light.

While Thine ear of love addressing,
  Thus our parting hymn we sing,
Father, with thine evening blessing,
  Rest we safe beneath thy wing.

AIR—*State Street.* S. M.

Blest be the tie that binds
  Our hearts in ardent love:
The fellowship of kindred minds
  Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
  We pour our fervent prayers:
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
  Our comforts and our cares.

A glorious hope revives
  Our courage by the way,
While each in expectation lives,
  And longs to see the day.

AIR—*Retreat.* L. M.

Come, sisters, ere to-night we part,
Join every voice and every heart:
One solemn hymn to God we'll raise,
One closing song of grateful praise.

Here, sisters, we may meet no more,
But there is yet a happier shore;
And there, released from toil and pain,
Dear sisters, we shall meet again.

Oh! may His love, with sweet control,
Bind every passion of my soul;
Bid every vain desire depart,
And dwell forever in my heart.

Doxology.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

INAUGURATION ODES.

AIR—*Duke Street, or Ward.*

Pour out thy Spirit from on high ;
  Lord ! thine assembled servants bless ;
Graces and gifts to each supply,
  And clothe us with thy righteousness.

Within this temple, where we stand
  To teach the Truth as taught by thee,
In favor bless this chosen band,
  With friendship, love, and unity.

And when our work is finished here,
  May we in hope our charge resign ;
When thou, Grand Patron, shalt appear,
  May we and all mankind be thine.

AIR—*Old Hundred.*

Lord, can'st thou deign to own and bless
This humble dome, this sacred place ?
Oh ! let thy Spirit's presence shine
Within these walls—this house of thine.

'Twas reared in honor of thy name ;
Here kindle, Lord, the sacred flame :
Oh ! make it burn in every heart,
And never from this place depart.

Lord, here the wants of all supply,
And fit our souls to dwell on high ;
From service in this humble place,
Raise us to praise thee face to face.

INITIATION.

AT RECEPTION OF CANDIDATE.

AIR—*Arlington.* C. M.

Spirit of Power and Might ! behold
  Thy willing servant here ;
With thy protection her infold,
  And free her heart from fear.

Tho' darksome skies shall o'er her lowe
  And dangers fill the way,
Support her with thy gracious power,
  And be her constant stay.

AIR—*Hebron,* L. M.

Far from the world's cold strife and pride,
  Come, join our peaceful, happy band ;
Come, stranger, we your feet will guide,
  Where Truth and Love shall hold command.

Then may you in our labors join,
  And prove yourself a sister true ;
All sordid, selfish cares resign,
  And keep our sacred truths in view.

BURIAL HYMNS.

AIR—*Ward.* L. M.

Teach us, O Lord, our days to sum,
  That we to wisdom may incline
What steps of life are yet to come ;
  What gloomy steps of pain and sin.

'Tis ours to know that we must die,
  Oh, teach us, Lord, how best to live ;
Thy love with greater power display,
  Thy grace in larger measure give.

AIR—*Putnam or Mt. Vernon.* 8*s* & 7*s*.

DEATH OF A YOUNG LADY.

Sister, thou wast mild and lovely,
  Gentle as the summer breeze,
Pleasant as the air of evening,
  When it floats among the trees.

Peaceful be thy silent slumber—
  Peaceful in the grave so low;
Thou no more shalt join our number;
  Thou no more our songs shall know.

Dearest sister, thou hast left us;
  Here thy loss we deeply feel;
But 'tis God that hath bereft us,
  He can all our sorrows heal.

Yet again we hope to meet thee,
  When the day of life is fled,
Then, in heaven, with joy we greet thee,
  Where no farewell tear is shed.

AIR—*Duke Street.* L. M.

Unveil thy bosom, faithful tomb,
  Take this new treasure to thy trust,
And give these sacred relics room
  To slumber in the silent dust.

Nor pain, nor grief, nor anxious fear,
  Invade thy bounds; no mortal woes
Can reach the silent sleepers here,
  And angels watch their soft repose.

Break from thy throne, illustrious morn;
  Attend, O Earth, his sovereign word;
Restore thy trust, a glorious form;
  Let her ascend to meet her Lord.

Rock of Ages.

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee ;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy side, a healing flood,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save from wrath and make me pure.

Should my tears for ever flow,
Should my zeal no languor know,
This for sin could not atone,
Thou must save, and thou alone ;
In my hand no price I bring,
Simply to thy cross I cling.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When my eyelids close in death,
When I rise to worlds unknown,
And behold thee on thy throne ;
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.

AIR—*Woodland.* C. M.

DEATH OF A YOUNG PERSON.

Calm on the bosom of thy God,
  Young spirit, rest thee now !
E'en while with us thy footsteps trod,
  His seal was on thy brow.

Dust, to its narrow house beneath !
  Soul, to its place on high !
They that have seen thy look in death,
  No more may fear to die.

Lone are the paths, and sad the bowers,
  Whence thy meek smile is gone ;
But oh ! a brighter home than ours,
  In heaven is now thine own.

AIR—*Pleyel's Hymn.* 7s.

Softly, sadly, bear her forth
  To her dark and silent bed;
Weep not that she's lost to earth,
  Weep not that her spirit's fled.

This our sister gone before,
  May we in remembrance keep;
Hoping, as time passes o'er,
  We shall meet where none e'er weep.

One last look—one parting sigh,
  Ah, too sad for words to tell;
Yet, though tears may dim each eye,
  Hope we still, and sigh farewell!

AIR—*Shirland.* S. M.

Companion! thou hast gone!
  Rest from thy loved employ—
The glorious victory thou hast won,
  Enter thy Master's joy.

The pains of death are past;
  Labor and sorrow cease;
Life's pilgrimage is closed at last,
  The soul is found in peace.

May we, who linger here,
  E'er true and faithful be;
Devoted, in our humble sphere,
  Devoted, Lord, to thee!

ELECTIONS.

The elective officers of a Chapter are the Worthy Patron, Worthy Matron, Associate Matron, Treasurer, Secretary, Conductress, and Associate Conductress, who shall be elected annually, by ballot, by a majority of the members present, at the stated meeting next preceding December 27 (festival of St. John the Evangelist), and should be installed on the same or at the next stated meeting.

The appointed officers are the Warder, Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, Electa, and the Sentinel, who shall be appointed by the Worthy Matron, at the time of her installation.

In case of the death, absence, or other disability of the Worthy Matron to preside, the Associate Matron will, of right, assume the position and responsibilities of the Chair. If these officers are absent or unable to attend the meetings of the Chapter, the Patron will appoint members to preside during their temporary or permanent absence, until the next annual election.

Vacancies in the elective offices, except the Patron, Matron, and Associate Matron (who cannot resign), may be filled by ballot, at a stated meeting, the members having been summoned for that purpose. Vacancies in the appointed offices may be filled by the Worthy Matron at a regular meeting.

ANNUAL INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

At every annual election in a subordinate Chapter, it is necessary that the officers should be installed. The ceremony may be performed by a Present or Past Patron. The officers having been constitutionally elected and the Chapter being open, the Worthy Patron of the last year, or a Grand officer, may be selected, takes the chair, and appoints a lady Marshal, who will be assisted by the W. Patron elect.

The official jewels should be collected and placed on the altar for convenience. If the Installation should be public, the Chapter may be opened as usual, omitting such parts of the ceremonies as are not proper to be performed in the presence of strangers. On such occasions the installing officer should deliver an address, giving a history and explaining the principles of the institution.

The officers of a new Chapter must be installed by the Grand Patron or an authorized Deputy.

All things being ready, the ceremonies will be performed in the following order. The installing officer will say:

W. P. Sister Marshal, you will now present the Worthy Matron elect for installation.

She conducts her in front of the Patron, and says:

Mar. Worthy Patron,* it is with great pleasure that I present Sister .....,who has been elected Worthy Matron of this Chapter for the ensuing year. Our Sister

* If it be the Grand or Associate Grand Patron, she will address him as Grand Patron.

is not unmindful of the important responsibility that rests upon her in the acceptance of this trust; yet she is

willing to assume it in the hope that, by the aid of her Sisters and Brethren and the favor of God, she will be enabled to properly fulfill the duties of the office, and not prove unworthy of the high honor that has been conferred upon her.

W. P. Sister ....., before proceeding with your investiture, it is necessary that you should signify your assent to those Regulations of the Order, upon the strict observance of which the stability and success of our organization mainly depends.

You admit that the Chapter Order of the Eastern Star is the basis of the Adoptive Rite, and that the name, character, and mode of recognition of the Order are unchangeable.

Ans. I do.

You admit that a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being is absolutely necessary to membership in the Order.

Ans. I do.

You promise to protect and obey the laws and regulations of the Grand Chapter, and the edicts of the Grand Patron, and to permit no violation of them by the members of your Chapter.

Ans. I do.

You agree that the ceremonies of initiation can in no case be conferred, unless a Master Mason, in regular standing, presides.

Ans. I do.

You admit that no new Chapter shall be formed with-

out permission of the Grand Chapter, or Grand Patron; and that no countenance be given to any illegally formed Chapter, its members, or persons initiated therein.

Ans. I do.

You agree that no visitor shall be received into your Chapter without due examination, nor when such visitor is likely to disturb the peace and harmony thereof.

Ans. I do.

You agree that no person can be regularly initiated in, or admitted a member of a Chapter, without previous notice, and proper investigation as to character.

Ans. I do.

You agree to promote the welfare of this Order, and will use your utmost endeavors to make yourself useful and your station honorable.

Ans. I do.

Do you promise to support and maintain these rules and regulations, and to enforce their observance by the members of your Chapter?

Ans. I do.

W. P. Members of ..... Chapter, No. ...., you have heard your Sister-elect in the sacred pledges she has made. Do you still entertain the wish that she should preside over the Chapter the coming year.

No one replying in the negative, he proceeds:

The office of Worthy Matron is one of much labor, care, and anxiety, and demands the utmost attention and forbearance on the part of that officer.

The members will naturally look to you, not only for counsel in the many and varied matters that come before the Chapter, but for advice and sympathy in their troubles and sorrows. It should be your constant study, therefore, how best to cultivate all the social virtues.

You should be cautious in your behavior and courteous to your members. You should be an example of good order and punctuality, for in that manner only can you expect obedience to them from others. Within the Chapter it will be your duty to see that its regular meetings are held; that called meetings be had whenever the good of the Chapter demands it; that each of your subordinates fills her station with honor and usefulness; that the rules, by-laws, and regulations be implicitly observed; that the funds, records, rituals, and paraphernalia of the Chapter be properly preserved by the officers in whose charge they are; that the cry of the widow and orphan shall never be heard in vain within the sphere of operations assumed by this Chapter, and that it fails in nothing for which it is established.

The Matron of a Chapter ought to possess *knowledge,* to diversify her instructions; *judgment,* to preserve the happy medium between rashness and timidity; *talent,* to address the members at length on every emergency; *tact,* to conciliate disputes and reconcile contending parties; and *presence of mind,* to decide correctly on any sudden indiscretion or irregularity which may occur among the members of the Chapter, that order and good feeling may be perfect and complete. The great secret of government is to understand correctly under what circumstances authority ought to be exercised, and when it should be profitably withheld. She must never exercise partiality, or be detected in the slightest bias in favor of individuals. The Sister who possesses *all these qualifications* will rule and govern her Chapter with honor to herself and satisfaction to the members; it will represent a well-regulated and happy family, where harmony and loving kindness will prevail throughout the Chapter.

All this lies in your power to do, by the zealous exercise of your prerogatives as Worthy Matron, to which office your associate members have been pleased to elect you.

Sister Marshal, you will now invest our Sister with the proper badge of her office.

When she has done so, the Patron continues:

Your badge, the Gavel within the Star, the highest emblem of authority, will admonish you, that upon your judgment and discretion rests the government of this Chapter, and, in a great measure, the prosperity of our beautiful Order in this place.

Sister Marshal, you will now conduct our Sister to her proper station in the East.

The Marshal conducts her to the East, at the right of the Installing officer, when the following, or some other ode, may be sung:

MUSIC—*Zorah.*

Accept the trust we offer thee,
  Our Matron and our guide;
May justice, truth, and purpose high,
  In all thy power abide.

Oh! lead us by the light of truth,
  To walk in wisdom's way,
Thro' all the trying paths of life,
  To realms of endless day.

The Matron will be seated in the East until the other officers are installed. The Installing officer proceeds:

W. P. Sister Marshal, you will now present the Associate Matron elect for installation.

She does so, and says:

Mar. Worthy Patron, it affords me pleasure to present to you Sister ....., who has been elected Associate Matron of this Chapter for the ensuing year.

W. P. My Sister, the duties of your position are embodied in the name of your office. You are the Assistant

to the Worthy Matron in all branches of her responsible charge, and in her absence will succeed to all her privileges and responsibilities. It is necessary, therefore, that you should make yourself familiar with the duties of that office, so that you may fill it with credit to yourself and honor to your Chapter. Will you sacredly promise to use your utmost endeavors to make yourself useful and your station honorable in the post of Associate Matron?

She replies in the affirmative.

Sister Marshal, you will now invest our Sister with the proper badge of her office.

She does so, and the Patron continues:

Your badge, the Sun within the Star, an emblem of brightness, admonishes you to assist the Worthy Matron by your counsel, as the rising sun enlightens the day, being ever ready to assume her station when she should be absent.

Sister Marshal, you will now conduct our Sister to her proper station in the West.

She does so, and then resumes her station.

W. P. Sister Marshal, you will now present the Treasurer elect.

She does so, and says:

Mar. Worthy Patron, I take pleasure in presenting to you Sister ..... , Treasurer elect of this Chapter for the ensuing year.

W. P. My Sister, the proper preservation of our funds demand the utmost honesty and care upon the part of the Treasurer. The money placed in your hands may be required for the relief of the widow and orphan whom God may, at the most unexpected moments, send us as objects of our bounty. Will you sacredly promise never to violate the holy obligations assumed by you as Treasurer of this Chapter?

She replies in the affirmative.

Then, Sister Marshal, you will invest our Sister with the proper badge of her office.

She does so, and the Patron continues:

Your badge, the Cross-keys within the Star, an emblem of security, admonishes you to the strictest fidelity in the preservation and disbursement of the funds intrusted to your keeping.

Sister Marshal, you will now conduct our Sister to her proper station in the North-east.

She does so, and resumes her station.

W. P. Sister Marshal, you will now present the Secretary elect.

She does so, and says:

Mar. Worthy Patron, I have the pleasure of presenting to you Sister ... ..., who has been elected Secretary of this Chapter for the ensuing year.

W. P. My Sister, yours is an onerous and most responsible charge. But few are competent to perform it in the thorough manner it demands. Failure or neglect upon your part will complicate and embarrass all our pro-

ceedings, and give us a disgraceful record on the books of the Grand Chapter. It is your duty to note down in

proper order the business of our meetings; to collect all moneys due the Chapter, and to make out and forward to the Grand Secretary the necessary returns as required by the Constitution. With this knowledge of the responsible labors which, as Secretary, will be expected of you, do you sacredly promise to perform them to the utmost of your ability?

She replies in the affirmative.

Then, Sister Marshal, you will invest our Sister with the proper badge of her office.

She does so, and the Patron continues:

Your badge, the Cross-Pens within the Star, an emblem of power and intelligence, admonishes you that, as an invisible pen records all our thoughts and actions, so should you record the good deeds of your companions, and keep the accounts between them and the Chapter without prejudice or partiality.

Sister Marshal, you will now conduct our Sister to her station in the South-east.

She does so, and resumes her station.

W. P. Sister Marshal, you will now present the Conductress and Associate Conductress elect.

She does so, and says:

Mar. Worthy Patron, it is my pleasing duty to introduce Sister ....., elected to be Conductress, and Sister ....., elected to be Associate Conductress of this Chapter.

W. P. My Sisters, upon you devolve the duty of preparing and conducting through the ceremonies those

who seek the privileges of our Order; it behooves, therefore, that you should be among our most enlightened officers. The candidate enters our Chapter with a heart open to receive a favorable impression of our mysteries and our aims. If you present these matters aright, throwing sisterly courtesy and dignity around your offi-

cial proceedings, she will acquire a fond regard for a system that aims so high and promises so much. Remember, therefore, that it depends greatly upon the manner in which you receive and conduct a candidate, to make those impressions lasting, and what we desire they should be.

Such, my Sisters, are your duties as Conductress and Associate Conductress, and do you now pledge yourselves to use your best endeavors to perform them with credit to yourselves and honor to the Chapter?

They reply in the affirmative.

Then, Sister Marshal, you will invest our Sisters with their respective badges of office.

She does so, and the Patron continues:

Sister Conductress, your badge, the Scroll and Baton within the Star, an emblem of prepared plans and their fulfillment, admonishes you that the first impressions made upon a candidate are permanent, and should always be for good.

Sister Associate Conductress, your badge, the Baton

within the Star, an emblem of direction, admonishes you that good discipline is essential to the success of our society.

Sister Marshal, you will now conduct our Sisters to their proper stations in the South and North.

She does so, and resumes her station:

W. P. Sister Marshal, you will now present the Warder and Sentinel of the Chapter.

She does so, and says:

Mar. Worthy Patron, I present to you for installation Sister ....., appointed as Warder, and Brother* ...., appointed as Sentinel of this Chapter for the ensuing year.

W. P. My Sister and Brother, you are respectively the Inner and Outer Guards of the Chapter. Upon you, therefore, we rely to preserve that secrecy which is essential to our proceedings, and to see that the solemnity of our ceremonies is not interrupted by untimely alarms.

Will you solemnly promise to use your utmost endeavors to promote that state of harmony and serenity which becomes all our proceedings?

They answer in the affirmative.

Then, Sister Marshal, you will invest our Sister and Brother with their respective badges of office.

She does so, and the Patron continues:

Sister Warder, your badge, the Dove within the Star, an emblem of peace, admonishes you

* If both are Sisters, the language must be changed accordingly.

that peace and harmony are essentially necessary to the success of our Order, and that it lies greatly in your power to promote them.

Brother Sentinel, your badge, the Cross-Swords within the Star, an emblem of protection, admonishes you that upon your watchful care depends our security against interruption.

Sister Marshal, you will now conduct our Sister and Brother to their proper stations.

She does so, and resumes her station.

W. P. Sister Marshal, you will now present the Sisters appointed to represent the five rays of the Central Star of this Chapter.

She conducts the five Sisters to the Patron, and says:

Mar. Worthy Patron, it is my pleasing duty to present in one group the five rays of this Chapter of the Eastern Star. Sister ..... has been appointed to represent the blue ray of Adah; Sister ....., the yellow ray of Ruth; Sister ....., the white ray of Esther; Sister ....., the green ray of Martha; and Sister ....., the red ray of Electa.

The Patron says:

W. P. My Sisters, you are the floral center of this Chapter, and as the various flowers which your colors represent, illuminated by that great light, the Holy Scriptures, teach us the lessons of undying love, unending possession, heart purity, undeviating sincerity, and unfading beauty, so are represented in you the most charming, the most pathetic, and the most instructive lessons of the Old and New Testament.

To you is assigned the duty of instructing the candidate in those sublime virtues, illustrated in the lives of the characters you represent. How important then, that in your official duties you should labor to throw an air of beauty and solemnity around all that you have to say and do, so that from you, as the Central Star of our Chapter, may emanate a light that will give holy joy to every one who attends our meeting.

Will you promise to use your utmost endeavors to fulfill these duties with dignity and earnestness?

They answer in the affirmative.

Sister Marshal, you will now invest our Sisters with their respective badges of office, and conduct them to their proper stations.

The Marshal invests them with their jewels, beginning with Adah, conducts them to their places, and returns to her station. The Patron continues:

W. P. Sister Adah, your badge, the Sword and Vail, will remind you of the filial piety of the heroic daughter of Jephthah.

Sister Ruth, your badge, the Sheaf, will remind you, that to please God is worthy of our greatest sacrifices.

Sister Esther, your badge, the Crown and Scepter, will remind you that true friendship refuses no pain or loss for the object of its affection.

Sister Martha, your badge, the Broken Column, will remind you that times of the deepest sorrow and loneliness are often enlightened by the highest graces of God.

Sister Electa, your badge, the Cup, will remind you that the cup which our Heavenly Father gives us to drink, though bitter and distasteful, will in the end prove to overflow with blessings, rich, abounding and eternal. Such, my Sisters, are the lessons inculcated by your several badges of office.

The truly sublime virtues exemplified in the lives of those you represent are worthy of imitation, and I hope that as you teach these virtues in the Chapter, so will you practice them out of it. Thus will you not only honor the stations to which you have been appointed, but lay up for yourselves those Heavenly treasures that shall never fade, and will render you "Fairest among thousands altogether lovely."

The Sisters will be seated. The Patron continues:

W. P. Sister Marshal, you will now present the Worthy Patron elect.

Mar. Worthy Patron, I have the honor to present for installation, Bro. . . . . ., elected Worthy Patron of this Chapter for the ensuing year. Our brother is fully aware of the great responsibilities he is assuming in the acceptance of this important position, yet he is willing to undertake the charge in the belief that, with the aid and forbearance of the members and brethren, he will not fail in the performance of his duty, and thus prove that the confidence reposed in him has not been misplaced.

W. P. Bro. . . . ., you have been elected by the free choice of the members of this Chapter to occupy the most exalted position in their power to bestow upon a gentleman, a just compliment to your zeal and worth, and for which I offer you my sincere congratulations. Your long and intimate acquaintance with the rules and affairs

of our Order justify me in saying that your fellow-members have exercised a sound discretion in this selection.

You are elevated to a position from which the power and prerogative may depart with the expiration of your term of service, but the honor and dignity, except by your own act, *never*. The high honors attached to the office of Worthy Patron are accompanied by weighty and delicate responsibilities. From the nature of this association, you are not the chief officer, yet, in all things pertaining to your station, your advice and counsel will always be solicited, and your decisions cheerfully approved. It is expected that you will not only have a watchful care over the interests of the Chapter, and see that the laws of the Order are promptly obeyed by the members, but that you will feel called upon to exemplify in your conduct through life the excellent tenets of our Order. Prove by your good example, that the members of the Chapter have found in you a brother in whom they can perfectly confide. Maintain with unswerving care the constitutions and regulations of the Order, and, in your respect for law and good government, cause all others to find the strongest incentive of obedience to all lawful commands.

Your specific duties are to preside during the ceremonies of initiation; at the election of officers, and at such other times as required by the Worthy Matron; to see that the officers are thoroughly qualified to perform *their* duties in the ceremonies of initiation; to have a general supervision over the affairs of the Chapter, and to act as the constitutional adviser of the Worthy Matron. Your well-known zeal in the cause of the

Order impels me to believe that you will discharge these important duties with lasting benefit to the Chapter and honor to yourself.

You will now be invested with the proper badge of office, and conducted to your station in the East, at the left of the Worthy Matron.

The Marshal invests the Patron with the jewel, conducts him to his station in the East.

The officers having been installed, the Installing officer resumes the ceremony of completing the installation of the Matron.

W. P. Worthy Matron, the officers of your Chapter have been installed into their respective stations for the ensuing year. You will now receive in charge the Charter, by the authority of which this Chapter is held. You will carefully preserve it, and in no case should it ever be out of your immediate control, and when your term of office expires, you will duly transmit it to your successor in office.

You will receive the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of the State, and the By-Laws of this Chapter, which you are to see carefully and promptly obeyed.

The Bible, that book which reveals the duties which the Great Master of all exacts from us, has God for its author, truth for its substance, and the salvation of mankind for its end, open upon the altar, is confided to your care.

And now I present you with this Gavel, emblem of your authority; and as none can disobey it, I confidently hope that you will never use it in an arbitrary or dictatorial manner, remembering that we should charitably temper justice with equity.

The Chapter is now called up, and Patron conttnues:

Worthy Matron, behold your Sisters.

Sisters, behold your Worthy Matron, and as such you will salute her with the honors.

The honors are given.

You will now assume your station as Worthy Matron.

The Chapter is called down by the Matron.—(*Music.*) When the music ceases the Patron continues:

W. P. Sisters and Brothers of ..... Chapter, No. ...., such is the nature of all associations, that, as some must rule and govern, so others must submit and obey.

The officers whom you have selected to preside over your deliberations during the ensuing year, are, I believe, sufficiently conversant with the rules of propriety to avoid exceeding the powers with which you have entrusted them.

A leading object of our institution is to inculcate sound morality, as founded upon the great moral principle set forth in the sacred volume, ever found on our altar, which we receive as the rule and guide of our faith and practice. Special care should be used in the admission of members, lest, by the introduction of improper materials, the institution would be injured. It should be constantly borne in mind that the respectability and usefulness of a Chapter does not consist in the number, but in the character of its members. It is better that no additions be made to the roll of membership for years, than even one unworthy foot should be allowed to cross the threshold of the Chapter. The uninitiated judge of our institution by the conduct of its individual members. You should be as careful of the reputation of your Chapter as that of your family; and as you would admit none to the society of the latter whose character is bad, so should you carefully exclude such from the former.

As the purposes for which we are associated together are to protect the widow and orphan, comfort the afflicted, sympathize with the sorrowing, and relieve the destitute and distressed; and, as it is only by united action that we can hope to accomplish these objects, I trust no discord will ever arise among us, but that we may be ever united in the pleasing work of increasing our own happiness and promoting that of others.

All things are now ready for you to enter upon the proceedings of a new year. But we know not what is before us. No one can affirm that another year, or even a single day, will be committed to our trust. Therefore, if we have been faithful heretofore, let us redouble our exertions for the future.

Let us be kind, forbearing and forgiving one toward another. Let us return kindness for hostility. Let us sacredly preserve our lips from slander and evil speaking. And, finally, let us ever be governed, in words and deeds, by that golden rule, "That whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you, do ye even so unto them." Thus may we confidently hope that in the good providence of God, each of us will be brought, through a useful and happy life, to a blissful close, and a triumphant entrance into the city of the living God.

Sister Marshal, you will now proclaim the officers of ..... Chapter, No. .. regularly elected and installed.

Mar. By direction of the Worthy Patron, I proclaim the officers of ..... Chapter, No. ...., Order of the Eastern Star, regularly elected and installed for the ensuing year.

INSTALLATION OF THE OFFICERS OF A GRAND CHAPTER.

The chair being occupied by the Grand Patron of the preceding year, or by a Past Grand Patron, will proceed to the duty of installing the officers elect into their respective stations.

(An officer of a Masonic Grand Lodge, or the Master of a Lodge, may perform this service, assisted by a Grand Marshal.)

The chairs remain occupied by the officers, who, having served their time, are about to retire from office. The ceremony will be conducted in the following order:

Inst. Officer. Sisters and Brethren, I am now prepared to install into their respective stations the officers of this Grand Chapter. Brother Grand Marshal, you will present the officers elect at the altar for installation.

The officers are arranged by the Grand Marshal in a semi-circle around the altar, facing the East, the Grand Patron on the right, the Grand Matron next, and so on according to rank.

Gr. Mar. Grand Patron, the Grand Officers elect are in order before you, and await your pleasure.

Inst. Off. Sisters and Brethren, you here behold those whom you have elected officers to serve you for the ensuing year. If any member of this Grand Chapter is apprised of any just or sufficient reason why either of these officers should not be installed, let the objection be now made known.

No objection being made, he proceeds:

I will now administer the obligation of office, which you will each repeat.

The Grand Chapter is called up by two raps of the gavel.

I (*each giving full name*), do solemnly pledge my honor, in the presence of Almighty God and of this Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, that I will, to the best of my ability, faithfully and impartially perform all the duties incumbent on the office to which I have been selected; that I will conform to the constitution, laws, rules and regulations of this Grand Chapter, and in every way within my power assist in extending the usefulness of the institution.

The officers may be seated on one side the room convenient to be presented in succession. The Grand Chapter is called to order.

Brother Grand Marshal, you will present the Grand Patron.

Gr. Mar. Worthy Sir, I have the honor to present Brother . . . . . , who has been elected Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, of the State of . . . . . , for the ensuing year, for installation.

GRAND PATRON.

Inst. Off. My Brother, we most cordially congratulate you upon your election to this, the most distinguished and important office within the gift of your associates. The confidence displayed by this Grand Chapter in elevating you to supreme command, is an ample guarantee to the Order throughout this jurisdiction, of your wisdom and of your worth. You cannot, Sir, be otherwise than aware of the deep and solemn consequence of the duties you are now about to assume, or of

the many cares and perplexities which surround its exalted honors. These difficulties will, I am confident, be alleviated by the affectionate sympathy and active assistance of your associates. You may occasionally encounter stern opposition from without, from those who do not, or will not understand our purposes; but as the most dangerous and insidious enemy to the perpetuity and harmony of our beloved institution will pale before you in the uprightness of your administration of its affairs, we can have no fears of the results.

We now, Sir, have the honor to invest you with the jewel of your office (*the Marshal invests him with the jewel*), and with the emblem of your control (*hands the gavel*), which in your hands should never be sounded in vain, and welcome you to the East of the Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, of the State of . . . . . , and render you this, the first act of homage due to you as Grand Patron.

Bows low, with hands crossed on the breast. The Grand Chapter is called up.

I now salute and proclaim you Grand Patron of the Order of the Eastern Star, of the State of . . . . . Sisters and Brethren, behold your Grand Patron. Grand Patron, behold your Sisters and Brothers.

The assembly will, under the direction of the Installing Officer, salute the Grand Patron with the grand honors. The Grand Chapter is called to order.

Grand Marshal, you will present the Grand Matron elect.

Gr. Mar. I have the honor to present you Sister . . . . . , who has been elected Grand Matron of this Grand Chapter, for the ensuing year, for installation.

GRAND MATRON.

Inst. Off. Sister , ... , the office to which you have been elected, is one of high dignity, and may become one of great importance, for in the absence of the Grand Patron from the meetings of the Grand Chapter, or from the limits of its jurisdiction, you are, by the Constitution, invested with his powers and to exercise his high prerogatives. In view of such emergencies, allow us to remind you of the duty devolving on you, to be thoroughly prepared to fill his distinguished position with honor to yourself and advantage to the Order.

With pleasure we invest you with the jewel of office, and proclaim you Grand Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star of the State of . . . . . You will be seated in your place, at the right of the Grand Patron.

Before she is seated, the Installing Officer calls up the Grand Chapter, and the Grand Matron is saluted in the same manner as the Grand Patron. The Gr. Marshal will present the Associate Grand Patron in nearly the same words as the previous officers.

ASSOCIATE GRAND PATRON.

Inst. Off. Bro. . . . . , by the suffrages of the members of this Grand Chapter, you have been elected to the position of Associate Grand Patron. Be assiduous in the performance of your duties, so that you will truly be a strength and support to the Grand Patron. In the absence of your superior officers, you will assume supreme command. Your fitness for the discharge of such a trust undoubtedly led to your selection for the office by your companions, and it will be

your duty and, no doubt, a pleasure so to act as to justify their confidence.

You will now be invested with the jewel of your office and conducted to your station in the West.

The Grand Marshal presents the other officers in the following order, and with appropriate words:

ASSOCIATE GRAND MATRON.

Inst. Off. Sister . . . . . , your associates have shown their confidence in your fidelity by electing you to the responsible position of Associate Grand Matron. Your previous devotion to the duties of the Order of the Eastern Star is a sufficient guarantee that you will be a vigilant officer in whatever station you may be placed. It affords us much pleasure to have you invested with the jewel of your office.

You will be conducted to your station, in the West, at the right of the Associate Grand Patron.

GRAND TREASURER.

Inst. Off. Sister . . . . . , your associates have been pleased to elect you to the responsible office of Treasurer of this Grand Chapter. Your integrity and truthfulness satisfy us that the trust is wisely reposed. It is your duty to receive all moneys from the Grand Secretary; make due entry of the same, and pay them out on the order of the Grand Chapter, or Grand Patron, rendering accounts thereof. We are happy to have the privilege of investing you with the jewel of your office. The faithful performance of your duties

will entitle you to the good opinion and thanks of your companions. You will be conducted to your station.

GRAND SECRETARY.

Inst. Off. Brother* ....., it is with extreme pleasure that we invest you with the jewel of your office.

The duties of Grand Secretary are more varied, difficult, and I may add, pleasant, than that of any other officer in the Grand Chapter. Brought by your official position more immediately into communication with the whole body of the Order, it is requisite that you should possess ability, skill and industry, to meet the various demands upon you. It is your duty to record all the proceedings of the Grand Chapter; to receive all moneys due the Grand Chapter, and pay them over to the Grand Treasurer, and keep a just and true account of the same; to keep and affix the seal of the Grand Chapter to all proper documents, and carefully to preserve its archives. These are very important duties, on which, in a great measure, the usefulness of the Grand Chapter depends. Accuracy and punctuality are qualities which your office particularly requires; and as there is no place in the Grand Chapter in which a member can render more substantial service to the Order, I am confident that you will so perform its duties as to merit their esteem and receive their hearty approbation. You will be conducted to your station.

GRAND CHAPLAIN.

Inst. Off. Reverend and Worthy Brother, the sacred position of Grand Chaplain has been entrusted to your care. In the discharge of your duties you will be required

* When this office is held by a lady the language must be changed.

to lead the devotional exercises of the sessions of the Grand Chapter, and to perform the sacred functions of

your holy calling at all our public ceremonies. The principles and precepts of our association are in strict accordance with the best teachings and maxims found in the inspired volume, which is the chart and text-book of your sacred mission. Teach us from its life-giving precepts ; intercede for us with that Divine Majesty which it so fully reveals and unfolds to us ; and inspire us by its lessons of infinite wisdom and truth. The profession which you have chosen for your lot in life is the best guarantee that you will discharge the duties of your present appointment with steadfastness and perseverance in well-doing. It is eminently appropriate that an emblem of the sacred volume, which sheds its benignant rays upon the altar of every lawful assemblage of our Order, should be the jewel of your office, with which you will now be invested and conducted to your proper station, at the left, in front of the Grand Patron.

GRAND CONDUCTRESS.

Inst. Off. Sister . . . . . , you have been elected to the honorable post of Grand Conductress of this Grand

Chapter, and will now be invested with the jewel of office. Upon you will devolve the duties of receiving and introducing visitors ; acting as the messenger of the Grand Officers, and as a useful assistant to the Grand Marshal in the ceremonies of the Order. Thus your official position becomes one of great

value and importance to the comfort and good order of the Grand Chapter. Vigilance and zeal are necessary requisites of your office, and we are confident that you possess these qualifications. You will be conducted to your station, in the South.

ASSOCIATE GRAND CONDUCTRESS.

Inst Off. Sister . . . . . , you have been elected Associate Grand Conductress, and will now be invested with the jewel of office. Your duties will require you to devote your attention to the condition of the Grand Chapter; to see that everything is in readiness for the meetings of the body; to act as special messenger of the Grand Patron and Grand Matron, and to assist the Grand Marshal and Grand Conductress in the performance of their duties. You will now be conducted to your station, in the North; and remember that the post of honor is the post of duty.

GRAND MARSHAL.

Inst. Off. Brother . . . . . , you have been appointed Grand Marshal of this Grand Chapter. The duties of your office require care, promptness and activity. You are to arrange all processions of the Grand Chapter; to make the proclamations of the installations of the Grand Officers, and at the institution of new Chapters, under direction of the Grand Patron. Skill and precisicn are essentially necessary to the faithful discharge of these duties. You will now be invested with the jewel of your office, and be con-

ducted to your station, at the right, in front of the Grand Patron.

GRAND LECTURER.

Inst. Off. Brother . . . . . , you have been appointed the Grand Lecturer and the Custodian of the Ritual of

the Order in this jurisdiction, and we now invest you with the jewel of your office. It is your duty to instruct the members of the Order in the proper performance of their duties; to communicate light and information to the uninformed; to preserve our Ritual from change and innovation; and, by your instructions to the members, to illustrate the genius and vindicate the principles of our institution. Let it be your object, while inculcating upon the members of this Order a faithful regard for its obligations, to impress them with a favorable opinion of its moral design and intellectual tendency. You will be conducted to your station at the left, in front of the Grand Patron.

GRAND WARDER.

Inst. Off. Sister . . . . . , you have been elected Grand Warder of this Grand Chapter, and we now invest you

with the jewel of your office. Your position is one of trust and responsibility. It is your duty to announce the approach of visitors and strangers. In so doing, possess yourself of the necessary information to announce their rank and position properly. Be cautious and vigilant, that no improper person may gain admittance. Your station is inside, at the door of entrance, on the right of the Associate Grand Patron.

GRAND ADAH, GRAND RUTH, GRAND ESTHER, GRAND MARTHA, AND GRAND ELECTA.

Inst. Off. Sisters, you have been appointed severally to the offices of Grand Adah, Grand Ruth, Grand Esther, Grand Martha, and Grand Electa. You are required to assist the Grand Officers generally in the discharge of their duties, and in every way in your power aid in the promotion of the interests of the Grand Chapter and the success of the Order. During the opening ceremonies of the Grand Chapter you will proclaim those sublime lessons of purity and faithfulness as exemplified by the same characters in the subordinate Chapter. You will be invested with the jewels of your several offices, and conducted to your stations.

GRAND SENTINEL.

Inst. Off. Brother . .. ..., you have been appointed Grand Sentinel of the Grand Chapter. Our institution is of a sacred character, and an irreparable injury might result from a negligent or careless discharge of your duty. Your office is one of great importance, and requires unremitting care and watchfulness. Your station

is outside the door. We now invest you with the jewel of your office, and you will repair to your place, and there be in active discharge of your duties.

All the officers are called up.

Inst. Off. It has fallen to your lot to be elevated to the highest places in the gift of this Grand Chapter. On entering upon the responsible duties of your several offices the members of this Grand Body expect you to devote yourselves with energy and zeal to the work allotted you to do. I need not remind you of the solemn obligations you have entered into with us, and that on you will depend much of our prosperity, harmony and success. May you be guided in the discharge of your duties by the spirit of the principles set forth in the sublime teachings of our Order. May the self-sacrificing spirit of Adah, the meekness of Ruth, the devotion of Esther, the faith of Martha, and the love of Electa, be examples for your imitation, being assured that the more devoted you are to our principles, the greater will be the respect entertained for you by the members of the Order, and the greater will be your enjoyment while you remain with us. In the organization of our Society, it is necessary that some should rule and others serve. A wise ruler seeks to elevate those to whom he is indebted for the position he occupies, and as a stream cannot rise higher than its source, so a ruler cannot gain prominence and glory greater than that enjoyed by his subjects. Let it be your aim to rise in office, for in so doing you elevate the whole body, and bring glory and honor to our beloved Order.

The Grand Chapter is called up.

Sisters and Brothers, let us all remember that we have a personal interest as well as a personal duty in the welfare of our Order, and that in proportion to our energy and zeal will be our success and prosperity. Let us feel assured that in all branches of our Order the progress, zeal and good conduct of the *members* are modeled upon the fidelity of the *officers*, and so be animated by the highest sense of duty. Let me exhort you in the words of the great Apostle: Do all things without murmurings and without disputings: that you may be without blame, without spot, the children of God, irreproachable, in the midst of a people depraved and perverse, amongst whom you shine as lights in the world, bearing to them the word of life; so that in the day of judgment we may all feel that we have not traveled in vain or vainly labored in the work of the Order of the Eastern Star!

Bro. Grand Marshal, you will proclaim the officers of the Grand Chapter elected and installed.

The Grand Marshal will then make proclamation:

By order of the Grand Patron and by authority of the Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, of the State of..... , I proclaim its Grand Officers elected and duly installed, in ample form.

BURIAL SERVICE

OF THE

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR.

INTRODUCTION.

"When our souls shall leave this dwelling,
The glory of one fair and virtuous action
Is above all the 'scutcheons on our tomb,
Or silken banner over us."

THE heritage of humanity is the grave. There is nothing so momentous as DEATH, as there is nothing so imminent, nothing so certain, nothing so universal. It is a mighty mediator. By it all the flames of rage are extinguished and hatred is appeased. From it there is neither exemption nor reprieve, for it happeneth unto all. It is not overcome by pride, soothed by flattery, moved by entreaties, bribed by benefits, softened by lamentations nor diverted by time. It is, therefore, absurd to fear that which we cannot prevent, as all that nature has prescribed must be good. One may live as a conqueror, a king, or a magistrate; but he must die as a man. The bed of death brings every human being to his pure individuality; to the intense contemplation of that deepest and most solemn of all relations, the relation between the creature and his Creator. Here it is that fame and renown cannot assist

us; that all external things must fail to aid us; that even friends, affection, and human love and devotedness, cannot succor us.

"Death levels all things in his march,
Nought can resist his mighty strength;
The palace proud,—triumphal arch,
Shall mete their shadow's length:
The rich, the poor, one common bed
Shall find in the unhonor'd grave,
Where weeds shall crown alike the head
Of tyrant and of slave."

INTERMENT OF THE DEAD.

The services for the interment of the dead of our Order are in their nature deeply impressive. This fact arises not from any boastful display, either in the ritual or the necessary surroundings, but from the very simplicity of both. No showy regalia are worn, and no adornment, save that of a simple badge of recognition, an emblem of a meek, sad, and loving spirit. No grandiloquent language is used, but only those few yet thrilling words which we hear uttered each time with feelings afresh of mingled sadness and admiration. The language is that of acquiescence in the will of the Supreme Grand Patron of the universe, of hope in the immortality of the soul, and the pure affection for a much-loved sister and friend, from whom we are severed only for a time.

"Soon may this fluttering spark of vital flame
Forsake its languid, melancholy frame!
Soon may these eyes their trembling lustre close,
Welcome the dreamless night of long repose!
Soon may this wo-worn spirit seek the bourn
Where, lull'd to slumber, grief forgets to mourn."

PERFORMANCE OF THE BURIAL SERVICE.

The manner of the performance of the Burial Service is of the highest importance. The Patron and other officers of a Chapter, who officiate on so public and influential occasions, should see to it that everything is arranged in a becoming manner, particularly in reference to dress and the necessary floral emblems; and that every word uttered carries with it emphasis and weight which the solemn Funeral Rite demands. The officers must recollect that they are engaged in the most sacred ceremony of the Order in the face of the world, and that it should be done worthily. If an officer of the Chapter is not competent to perform her part properly, another ought to be selected to take her place. No feelings of delicacy should interfere in the discharge of this important duty, for in no case should incompetency be allowed to bring the Order into disrepute by an unbecoming performance of a solemn public ceremony. This fact is substantiated in the experience of every reflecting mind. If this important work is performed in a careless or indifferent manner, the grand effect is irretrievably lost, the elegant purposes of the ceremonial is more than wasted, and the impression left on the public mind thoroughly bad.

"Death is the crown of life:
Were death denied, poor man would live in vain;
Were death denied, to live would not be life;
Were death denied, e'en fools would wish to die;
Death wounds to cure, we fall, we rise, we reign!
Spring from our fetters, fasten in the skies,
Where blooming Eden withers in our sight:
Death gives more than was in Eden lost;
This King of Terrors is the Prince of Peace."

GENERAL DIRECTIONS.

1. No Sister can be buried with the formalities of the Order, unless it be at her own request, or that of some of her family, communicated to the Patron or Matron of the Chapter of which she died a member.

2. The Patron of the Chapter, having received notice of the death of a Sister, and of her request, or that of the proper member of the family, to be buried with the ceremonies of the Order, issues an order to the Secretary to notify the Chapter, and may, so far as convenient, invite other members of the Order.

3. If the deceased was a Grand or Past Grand officer, it would be proper to invite the officers of the Grand Chapter; when the Patron may, in his discretion, invite the highest male Grand officer present to conduct the Burial Service.

4. The proper clothing to be worn at a funeral is black or dark clothes. A round rosette should be worn on the left breast—for an elderly person, to be of black crape; for a young person, to be of white and black ribbon. The official jewels should be draped with crape.

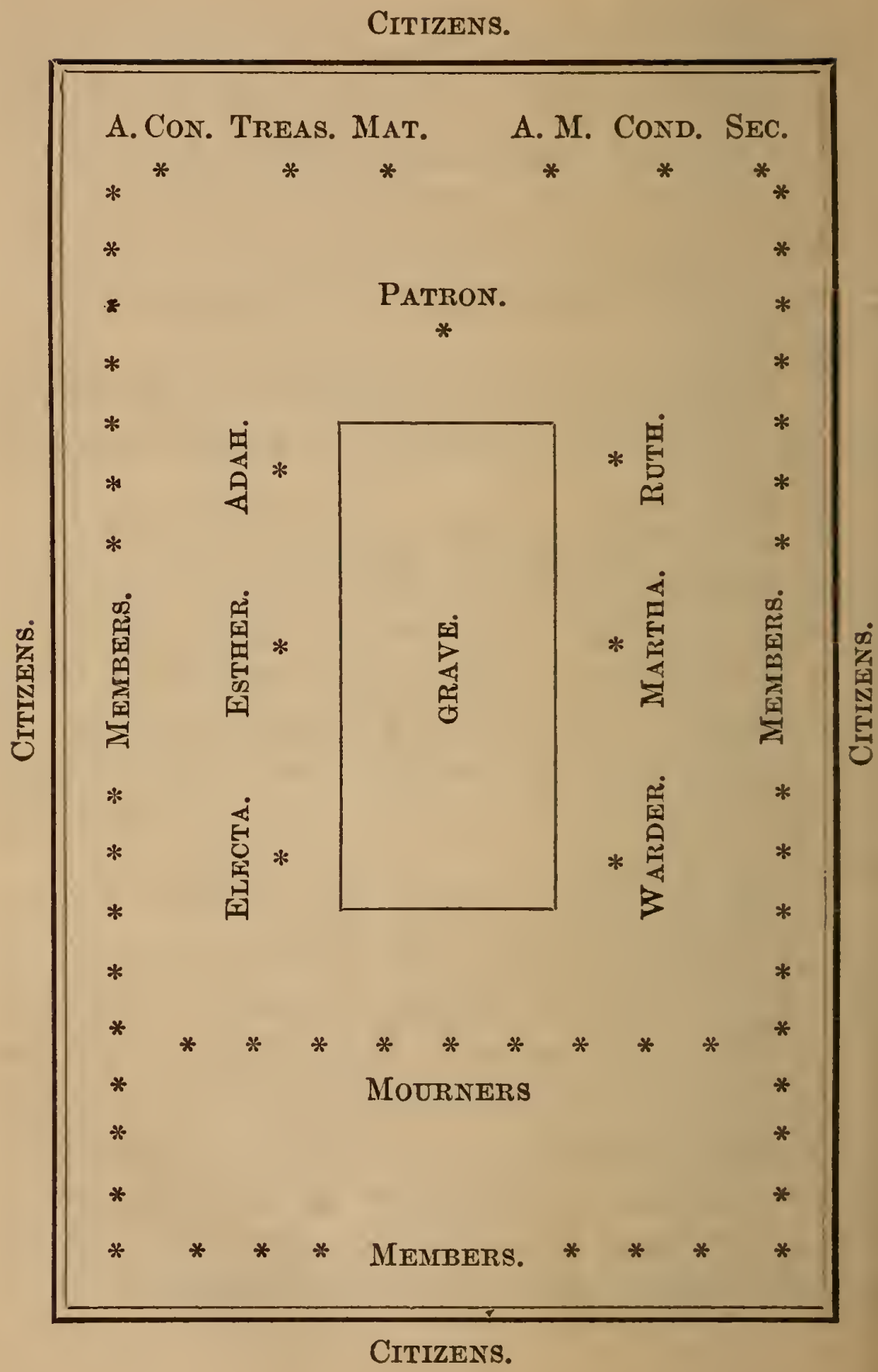
5. Immediate attention should be given to the preparation of a Floral Star, about fifteen inches from point to point, to be used in the service, the points to be of appropriately colored flowers; the crown of the star of immortelles, with a tuberose in the centre, and so constructed that the several points may be separated or drawn from the body of the star.

6. This Service may be performed in a church, or at the house of the deceased, with proper change of language, etc.

7. The members will assemble at the Chapter-room and walk or ride to the house, or meet at the house of the deceased, as may be most convenient.

8. Should the weather prove stormy, or other circumstances require the service to be shortened, the Patron must exercise discretion in the omission of such parts as will leave the service effective and perfect as possible.

9. The members of the Chapter will form a square round the grave; the Patron at the head of the grave, with the Matron, Treasurer, Associate Conductress, and members on the right; the Associate Matron, Conductress, Secretary, and members on the left; Adah, Esther, and Electa on the right; Ruth, Martha, and Warder on the left of the grave; the mourners at the foot of the grave, inside of the square, as shown in the following diagram:


CITIZENS.
A. CON. TREAS. MAT. A. M. COND. SEC.
PATRON.
ADAH.
ESTHER.
ELECTA.
GRAVE.
RUTH.
MARTHA.
WARDER.
MEMBERS.
MEMBERS.
CITIZENS.
CITIZENS.
MOURNERS
MEMBERS.
CITIZENS.

SERVICE AT THE GRAVE.

The foregoing arrangements being completed, the Patron will commence the services by saying:

PATRON. Friends, we are now assembled around the final resting-place of these mortal remains, and are about closing the solemn duties of respect we owe to our departed sister. A few reflections, therefore, applicable to the solemnities of this occasion, instructive and impressive as they should be to the living, may, with propriety, be offered on this sacred spot—a spot hallowed with the memories of deserted friendships, which linger round the heart, awakening a thousand melancholy yet pleasing reflections.

How wisely and appropriately it has been said that it is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting.

We are often told that in the world of matter all bodies are subject to the laws of mutual attraction and repulsion. The stars that fill the vault of heaven, the drops that make the ocean, the atoms that form the universe, are all controlled by a simple but mysterious power that renders the perfect isolation of even a grain of sand impossible. Nc human being can pass away into death without the knowledge or sympathy of some one. We can

not, if we would, live or die wholly unto ourselves. An individual may fall unseen, unwept, unhonored, and unsung, but when he drops like a pebble into the ocean of eternity, a ripple is created which must forever widen towards the limitless shore.

Our Heavenly Father hath again reminded us of the brevity and uncertainty of human life, and hath warned us also to be ready for that day which comes at last unto all, when the body returns to dust, and the spirit unto Him who gave it. Again our heads are bowed down and our hearts are heavy. The lesson of the present is full of deep and significant meaning. Our beloved sister has fallen in life's battle, acknowledged the supremacy of death, yielded to a victor whom none can resist, and entered upon the sleep that knows no waking. Her star is set on this world, and she has passed into the light that is beyond the valley of the shadow of death. With her we have traveled the pilgrimage of life; with her we have sympathized in its vicissitudes and trials. She is now removed beyond the reach of human praise or censure. That we loved her, our presence here evinces. As she in her life exemplified the virtues of those chosen servants of God—the lovely heroines of the Order—so surely shall be her reward. The memory of her virtues lingers in our remembrance, and reflects its shining lustre beyond the portals of the tomb, which is the gateway to immortality.

Sisters, brothers, and friends, let us improve the remaining brief period of life, and be prepared to obey our heavenly Grand Patron's call from our labors on earth to everlasting happiness in the world to come.

Let us pray.

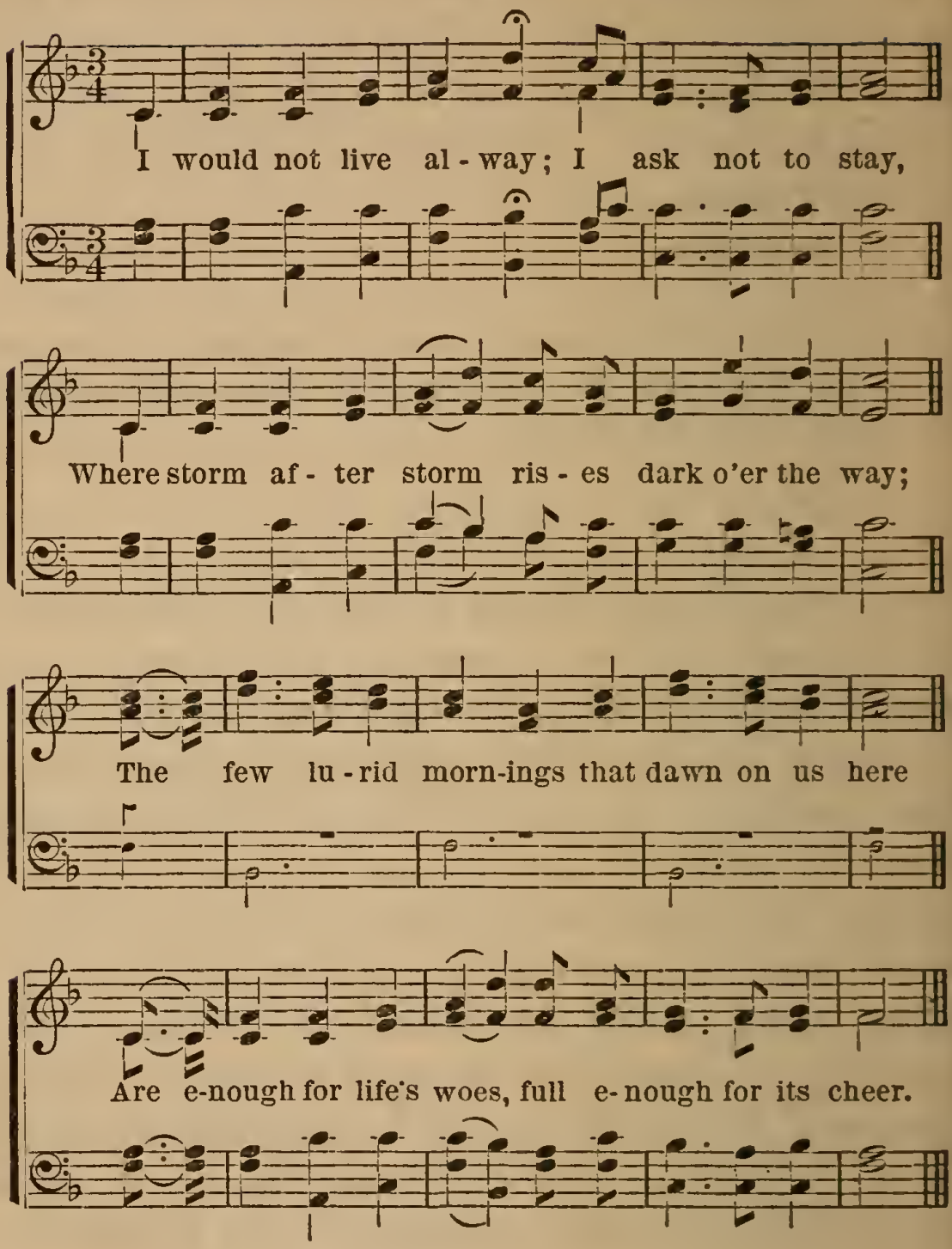
The Associate Matron, or a person appointed for the purpose, will read the following, or give, extemporaneously, some appropriate

PRAYER.

O merciful and loving Father, who hast made our present life but temporary, and thus decreed that the sorrows we endure shall not be perpetual, we thank Thee for the consciousness which Thou hast implanted in us that Thou dost exist, and that the grave is not the end of life. Pity and forgive the errors of the living, so that the evil consequences of sin may not follow them into the other world. May we endure the trials of life patiently, as resting in hope of a blissful reward. And may we so labor upon the instructive designs of our Order that Charity, Friendship, Good Counsel, and Morality may animate all our doings, purify our thoughts, and render us pleasing and acceptable in Thy sight. Amen.

After the Prayer, the members of the Order will join in singing the following, or some other appropriate

HYMN.



Who, who would live alway, away from his God;
Away from yon heaven, that blissful abode,
Where the rivers of pleasure flow o'er the bright plains,
And the noontide of glory eternally reigns.

Where the saints of all ages in harmony meet
Their Savior and brethren transported to greet;
While the anthems of rapture unceasingly roll,
And the smile of the Lord is the feast of the soul.

The Patron takes a Floral Star from the coffin, which shall be prepared for the occasion, made five-pointed and of the appropriate colors, viz.: blue, yellow, white green, and red; the centre of the star of immortelles, in the centre of which is a single Tuberose. The coffin is lowered into the grave, the Patron then proceeds:

PATRON. This floral emblem of the Eastern Star, wrought in Nature's own hues and from her own sweetest material, instructs us with an eloquence more powerful than words. They are sensibly an antidote to the gloomy surroundings of death, and lend to the departed one the appearance of being asleep only; on the grave they are sweetly consoling; they tell that the buried one is not neglected; that her memory has not departed from the hearts of the sorrowing ones. They are the constant and living witnesses that there is a hope and a future life. They, like ourselves, fade, wither and decay, yet in the spring-tide of the resurrection return to life, and in the celestial garden, where are collected God's choicest creation, when those who die in the Lord shall blossom and flourish with the fragrance of supernal grace; therefore, let them always adorn the coffin and bloom on the grave, for they are of heavenly appearance, and they tell of heavenly things.

In the ceremonies of our Order, flowers bear an important part. They are the beautiful silent hymns in which we read of the Creator's love to us, and suggest, through their colors and fragrance and matchless forms, the brave lessons and womanly graces of the five heroines of the Eastern Star. It is proper, therefore, that in this, our most solemn ceremonial, we should introduce our traditional flowers, with their appropriate lessons; and I now call upon the immediate representatives of those heroines to remind us of the lessons they contain.

Sister Adah, draw from these mute monitors of truth that portion of the Floral Star which suggests your particular duty, and impart to us its signification. (*Handing her the Star.*)

ADAH. My duty is to point hopefully to the blue expanse, beyond which lie the happy homes of our departed. (*Draws the Blue flower from the Floral Star, and holding it up, returns the star to the Patron, saying:*) This Blue flower, symbolizing Friendship, teaches the lesson of Undying Love. There are many who believe that the souls of our departed friends return, at times, when yearning love is strong within them, and bring us consolation from heavenly sources; others, that our Divine Father makes his messengers of such, to save from despair in those moments when our hearts sink within us. In the belief that true love is un-

dying, I deposit this memento of our love in the grave with the remains of our departed sister. (*Drops the flower into the grave.*)

PATRON. Sister Ruth, select that portion of the Floral Star which suggests your particular duty, and impart to us its signification. (*Handing her the Star.*)

RUTH. My duty is to point to the golden tints of sunset, emblematical of the peaceful death-bed of those who sweetly sleep in the Lord. (*Draws the Yellow flower from the Floral Star, and, holding it up, returns the Star to the Patron, saying:*) This Yellow flower, symbolizing disinterested Kindness, teaches the lesson of Unending Possession. We believe, upon highest authority, that it is only what we have given in the true spirit of Charity that abides with us when earthly treasures pass away. Believing this we lay our beloved ones in the grave, trusting them to the hands of Him who can never forfeit the guardianship of our jewels. In the belief that true love is unending, I deposit this memento of our remembrance in the grave of our departed sister. (*Drops the flower into the grave.*)

PATRON. Sister Esther, select that portion of the Floral Star which suggests your particular duty, and impart to us its signification. (*Handing her the Star.*)

ESTHER. My duty is to point to the pure robes of the saints, as indicative of the spotless inheritance reserved for those who live in the faith of the one ever-living God. (*Draws the White flower from the Floral Star, and, holding it up, returns the Star to the Patron, saying:*) This White flower, symbolizing Truth and Innocence, teaches the lesson of Heart Purity. A promise of ineffable consolation was once made, amidst the lilies on the mountain-side, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God!" Believing this, the humble may look up—the lowly may hope, for the Unerring Eye will detect them amidst the flowers of His field, and they shall not fail to realize His promise: "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom!" In the belief that no word of God can be lost, I deposit this emblem of our reverence for the will of God in the grave. (*Drops the flower into the grave.*)

PATRON. Sister Martha, select that portion of the Floral Star which suggests your duty, and impart to us its signification. (*Handing her the Star.*)

MARTHA. My duty is to point to the verdure of God's evergreen trees as a symbol of the unfading glories of the heavenly groves. (*Draws the Green sprig from the Floral Star, and, holding it up, returns the Star to the Patron, saying:*) This Ever-

green, symbolizing Immortality, teaches the lesson of Undeviating Sincerity. They whose souls have been touched with celestial fire, can know no change. Coldness may wound them, but they cannot be alienated. Absence only increases their devotion to Him who has won their hearts by His divine favor. As from the grave, ofttimes, the sweetest floweret springs, so from the anguish of death are born the richest proofs of undeviating sincerity. In the belief that true love is ever sincere, and, as an emblem of our faith in a blessed immortality, I deposit this emblem of our hope in the grave. (*Drops the sprig into the grave.*)

PATRON. Sister Electa, select that portion of the Star which suggests your particular duty, and impart to us its signification. (*Handing her the Star.*)

ELECTA. My duty is to point to the rosy tints of a brilliant sunrise, as promising a blissful resurrection to those who die in the Lord. (*Draws the Red flower from the Floral Star, and, holding it up, returns the Star to the Patron, saying:*) This Red flower, symbolizing Fervency, teaches the lesson of Unfading Beauty. On the banks of the pure river of the water of life, clear as crystal, is the tree of life, which yieldeth its fruit every month. There is no night there, neither sun nor moon; for the glory of God doth lighten all the

blissful place. Perfectly beautiful are the faces of the redeemed there; for they see the face of God, and his name is in their foreheads. In the belief that sincere friendship is eternally beautiful, I deposit this memento of our affectionate remembrance with the body of our lamented sister. (*Drops the flower into the grave.*)

The W. Matron steps forward, and says:

MATRON. It is a natural wish that flowers should spring from the graves of those we love. In Paradise, we believe, they never wither. God has given us manifold and wondrous truths in the stars of heaven; but the revelation of his love is not less plain in the flowers that are the stars of earth.

Emblems of our own great resurrection,
Emblems of the brighter, better land.

We strew them over the body of our departed friend (*strewing flowers*), as an apt manifestation of our affection, equally of hope and of reliance on that beneficence of which they are the eloquent impersonation.

She takes from her bosom a pure white rose, and, holding it up, says:

This white rose, the queen of flowers, the perfection of beauty and fragrance, is, from its spotless purity, a symbol of our belief that there is a purer and better state of existence beyond the grave. The pall may spread its velvet folds, and the sable

plumes bow in stately gloom over the dead; but a single white rose, drooping amid its verdant foliage, speaks of our reliance on the divine promise that we shall be like a watered garden, when the bodies of those who sleep in the Lord shall come forth from the grave radiant in the transfiguration of evangelic lustre. Lord of all power and might! all Thy works do praise Thee. We give thanks unto Thee for Thy great love, and do commend the spirit of our departed sister to Thy keeping; that in the final judgment she may stand before Thee in glory.

Presses the flower to her lips, and drops it into the grave, saying:

Until then, beloved, rest in peace!

PATRON. How instructive are these lessons! Love undying and unending, animating hearts that are pure and sincere, will inherit the unfading beauty of which the Holy Spirit hath spoken. In this belief, I deposit what remains of the Floral Star in the grave of our deceased sister. (*Deposits the balance of the Floral Star in the grave.*) By this event we are reminded of our approaching destiny; how happy, in the hour of dissolving nature, will be the inspiring influence of that song of triumph—

O death, where is thy sting?
O grave, where is thy victory?

The following, or some other appropriate Hymn, may be sung :

Cheerful.

Shall we gath-er at the riv - er Where bright angel feet have

trod; With its crys - tal tide for - ev - er Flow-ing

Chorus.

by the throne of God ? Yes, we'll gather at the riv - er, The

p

beau - ti-ful, the beau-ti - ful riv - er— Gath-er with the

saints at the riv - er That flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river,
  Washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever,
  All the happy, golden day.—*Chorus.*

On the bosom of the river,
  Where the Savior king we own,
We shall meet and sorrow never
  'Neath the glory of the throne.—*Chorus.*

At the smiling of the river,
  Rippling with the Savior's face,
Saints whom death will never sever,
  Lift their songs of saving grace.—*Chorus.*

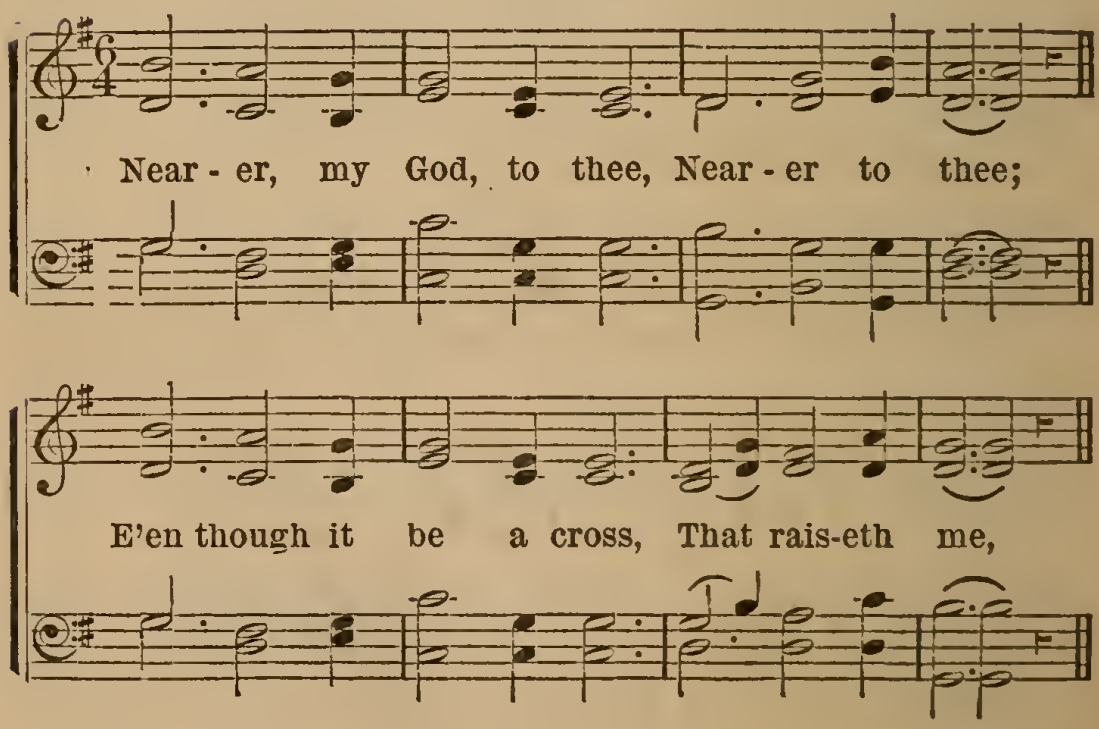
The duty we owe to the dead is performed. It remains that we who are living should so live, and by our actions attend the coming of the day of fate, that we may neither be surprised nor leave our duties imperfect, nor our sins uncanceled, nor God unappeased; but that when our bodies, in their turn, descend to their graves, our souls may ascend to the regions of eternal light. Whatever fate is to befall us in this world, let the motto of our lives be: For the past, Charity; for the present, Hope; and for the future, Faith.

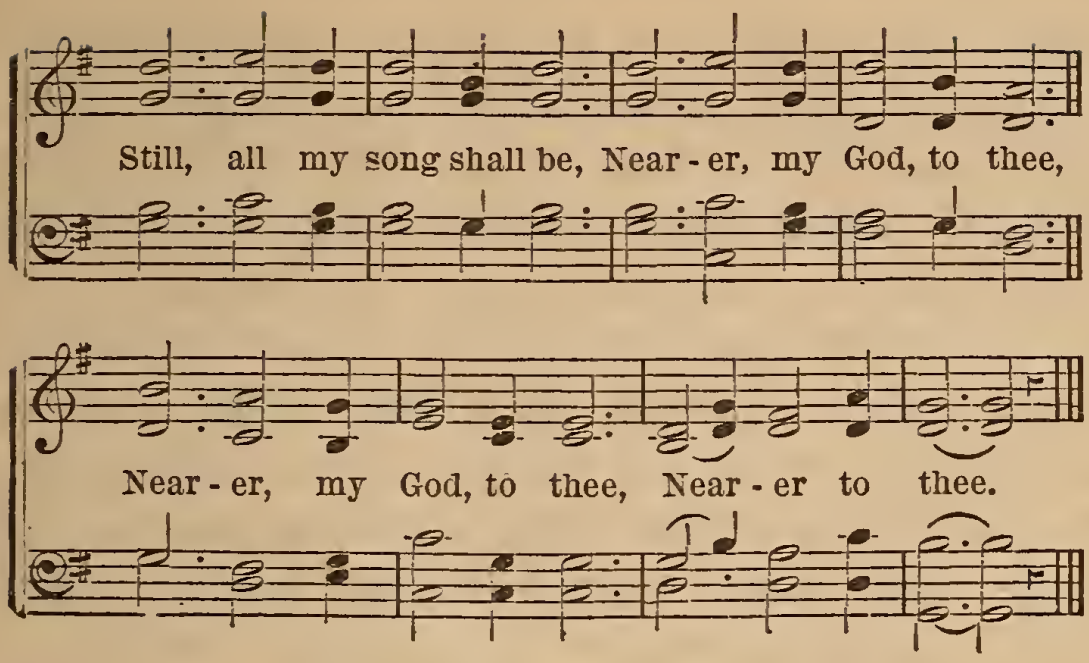
Soft and safe, my departed sister, be this thine earthly bed! Bright and glorious be thy rising from it! Fragrant and full of delightful perfume be the wild flowers that here shall flourish. May the earliest buds of spring unfold their beauties

over this thy resting-place, and here may the sweetness of the summer's last rose linger longest. Though the cold blasts of autumn may lay them in the dust, and for a time destroy the loveliness of their existence, yet the destruction is not final, and in the spring-time they shall surely bloom again. So, in the bright morning of the world's resurrection, thy mortal frame, now laid in the dust by the chilling blast of Death, shall spring again into newness of life, and expand in immortal beauty, in realms beyond the skies. Until then, dear sister, until then, farewell!

The following, or some other appropriate Hymn, may be sung:

Hymn.





Though like a wanderer,
Daylight all gone,
Darkness be over me
My rest a stone,
Yet in my dreams I'd be
Nearer, my God, etc.

There let the way appear,
Steps up to heaven;
All that thou sendest me
In mercy given,
Angels to beckon me,
Nearer, my God, etc.

A Benediction may be pronounced by the acting Clergy, or the following Prayer, by the Associate Matron, or other person:

PRAYER.

Almighty and merciful God, infinite in wisdom and goodness, extend to us the riches of Thy ever-

lasting favor, make us grateful for the benefits we enjoy, and crown us with immortal life and honor. Thou hast decreed that we all shall die and come to dust. Thou hast also decreed that we shall rise from death to everlasting life. In that faith may we live, ever remembering that here we have no abiding-place. In that faith may we die, ever believing that when our earthly house is dissolved, we shall be welcomed to that glorious mansion, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Aid these mourning friends to feel that the ties of kindred, affection, and friendship are not broken by death, and that the family in heaven and on earth are the same. Forgive our transgressions, strengthen us to perform our duties, comfort us in our sorrows, and take us at last unto Thyself in heaven. Amen.

Response by the members,

Amen and Amen.

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